

## Mr Smith is confident as he faces 'ultimatum'

Rhodesians voted yesterday in a general election expected to produce another landslide victory for the ruling Rhodesian Front. Mr Smith, Prime Minister, said he believed the Anglo-American settlement proposals to be presented to tomorrow would be "a kind of ultimatum". He would insist on making counter proposals to an internal settlement.

## Defiant statement on Rhodesian polling day

Mr Michael Kalpebury, Aug 31, the mainly white electorate in the Rhodesian election today, Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, said he believed the Anglo-American settlement proposals to be presented to tomorrow would be "a kind of ultimatum". He would insist on making counter proposals to an internal settlement.

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Mr Ian Smith casts his ballot in yesterday's election in Rhodesia.

Mr Ian Smith, a constitutional expert, former MP and long-standing opponent of Mr Smith's Government, was repeating his challenge for the seat as an independent and was widely regarded as having a strong chance of victory.

The constituency has a large percentage of Coloured and Asian voters, and Dr Palley, who has acted as an adviser to Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council, was expected to receive most of the votes.

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## Share index passes the 500 barrier

By Ray Maughan, Financial Staff

Share values increased yesterday on the London Stock Exchange to £1,299.30 and the rise on the day was £18.30. The FT Ordinary Share Index passed through the 500 barrier with a gain of 10 points to 500.9, its highest level since January 17, 1973.

On the foreign exchanges the pound continued to be in strong demand but the Bank of England intervened to hold down the rate.

The FT Actuaries All-Share Index at 206.54 is still 11.22 below its 1973 level and meanwhile the cost of living, measured by the Retail Price Index, has risen by 106 per cent.

Gilt-edged stocks were strong and during August Government Securities rose by 26 per cent to only 0.59 off its 51 months recorded last May.

Shares, as measured by the FT Ordinary Share Index, climbed 140.3 since the first day's trading but the real test at the beginning when the index struggled to rise.

Previously, fears of a pay rise inflation, a pensioner's movement, but Monday's rise before the index.

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## Grunwick re Scarmar re angers uni

By Robert Parker

The Grunwick film production company yesterday almost all the recom of Lord Justice court of inquiry in old dispute there that dismissed be reinstated with ex-gratia.

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## Science in conflict with society

By George Wright, Editor

Science has not been under attack for a hundred years as it is today, Sir Andrew H. Friswell, maintained at the opening of the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Birmingham, last night.

an outspoken attack on who tried to discredit the evidence that did not with fashionable social he touched on some sensitive issues facing the relation between genetic factors he intellectual differences in races and individual attitudes toward treatment of dissidents in Russia, in block and other

ies. Andrew, who is Royal Society Research Professor of Biology at University College London and a winner of the Nobel Prize for Medicine, compared the present situation with that of 1870, his grandfather, Thomas Huxley, defended Darwin's theory of evolution against who found unpalatable evidence that man and apes common ancestry.

challenge was at least that the scientific community should support the said, whereas bold enough to a thought there support claims the deal will greatly increase pay.

After more than two years of negotiation members of the National Graphical Association are today concluding a ballot to decide whether the agree-

ment is acceptable. It is designed to ensure industrial peace in the Mirror group, rationalize pay rates and working practice and pave the way for the trouble-free introduction of new technology. Payments to some workers will be well above £6,000 and in one case £12,000.

In order to receive those payments the printers are being asked to accept, in some instances, drops of £76 a week to a new rate of £174 for a 34-hour working week.

If the agreement is accepted, the printers will be guaranteed pay increases for the next three years of 10 per cent a year or the national agreement between the union and the Newspapers

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## Air assistants threaten a long-drawn-out dispute as airport deadline expires

By Christopher Thomas

Britain's airports, which have been forced to reduce flights since last Friday, seemed set for more trouble as the 48-hour ultimatum to air traffic control assistants to resume normal working or be suspended expired at midnight.

The ultimatum was delivered by the Civil Aviation Authority to the men who returned to work at midnight on Monday after the four-day Bank holiday strike. In reply their union, the Civil and Public Services Association, gave warning of a long drawn-out dispute. It said that the assistants would all be called out if there were any suspensions.

Mr Kenneth Thomas, the general secretary, said: "If they go ahead with suspensions

the public will be faced for the indefinite future with a severely cut airline system. That would be a tragedy for a country trying to climb out of a recession."

The union's national disputes committee, representing 850 control assistants, made its strike action decision in London yesterday. There were no indications yesterday that the Government was prepared to yield over its interpretation of the men's pay grievance, which goes back to 1975, when a new contract was delayed by phase one of the income policy. The union argues that the deal could now be implemented without contravening the rule that there should be a 12-month pause between separate main agreements.

Most of the control assistants are refusing to use the air

said yesterday that airlines were continuing to cooperate in reducing flights. British Airways cut flights by about a third.

The union decided that other members employed by the authority, such as specialist teleprinter operators and clerical and administrative staff, should be consulted about their involvement in any future intensification of the dispute.

Indications that the union would seek to impose a radar and radio blackout over British airports have not taken shape. The authority said last night that if there was an all-out strike by the assistants it expected to maintain present flight levels, which are reduced by up to two fifths.

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## £250m development of Tartan oilfield

Texaco is to spend about £250m on developing the Tartan oilfield, some 115 miles north east of Aberdeen. The company announced that it expects production to begin in late 1979 or early 1980.

## French job plan

The French Cabinet has announced a big spending programme to help the unemployed. But M. Barre, the Prime Minister, denied that the aim of the plan was to refuel the country's lagging economy.

## Coffee profits curb

A scheme to curb the retail profits on instant coffee has been agreed by retailers and the Government. It imposes a limit on the percentage a retailer can add to the price he pays for supplies.

## Soviet alcohol

Soviet doctors and economists are alarmed at the level of alcohol consumption in their country, according to Communist newspaper Sobornost among workers (about a rise of 10 per cent productivity, according to on-

## Windscale pled

The Department of the Environment has assured Mr Justice Fyfe that an inquiry will be held proposed to build Britain's first breeder reactor.

Ulster call: The Government urged to send a team of Catholics and Protestants to American investment in Ulster.

New York: President Carter on television to try again to persuade the American people of the need of the energy crisis.

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## BANKS DEBATE. Broadsheet No.4

# DID THE POLLS GET YOU RIGHT?

Should Britain's four main clearing banks be nationalised?

The Prime Minister, most of the Cabinet and the majority of Labour supporters say no, but last year the Labour Party Conference voted in favour of nationalisation.

We (the banks named below) have been asking you, through these Banks Debate Broadsheets, what you think.

Every day the issue becomes more widely discussed, as we see from our postbag.

So far, over 28,000 have taken part in the Debate. And over 90% of them wrote to tell us

that, for many reasons, they are against bank nationalisation.

## Independent polls.

Since the Debate was opened, there have also been two public opinion polls by independent organisations on this important issue.

Both interviewed a complete cross section of the British public. One was conducted in July by Market & Opinion Research International (MORI) and the other in August by Gallup.

One of MORI's questions asked, "Do you think this industry (banking) should be

nationalised?" 74% said no; 14% said yes. The remainder were uncommitted.

Concerning the Banks Debate itself, 90% of people said that they liked being given the chance to express their views. So we're printing some of the actual questions from both polls here, with the results. You might like to tick the appropriate boxes and see whether your opinion matches up with the majority view.

If you'd like to send us the page when you've filled it in, we will be pleased to add it to the growing fund of information on the public's opinion about the future of its banks.

## Banks and their customers.

1. "If the banks were nationalised, customers would get better service than they do now."

PUBLIC OPINION		YOUR OPINION	
They would	They wouldn't	They would	They wouldn't
11%	70%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. "If the banks were nationalised, bank charges would go up."

PUBLIC OPINION		YOUR OPINION	
They would	They wouldn't	They would	They wouldn't
67%	16%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. "If the banks were nationalised, there would be a wider choice of services than there is at present."

PUBLIC OPINION		YOUR OPINION	
They would	They wouldn't	They would	They wouldn't
17%	53%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. "If the banks were nationalised, the standard of management would rise."

PUBLIC OPINION		YOUR OPINION	
It would	It wouldn't	It would	It wouldn't
17%	62%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Banks and Britain.

5. "If the banks were nationalised, do you think they would do a better or worse job for Britain?"

PUBLIC OPINION		YOUR OPINION	
Better	Worse	Better	Worse
12%	55%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. "If the banks were nationalised, it would be good for investment in Britain."

PUBLIC OPINION		YOUR OPINION	
It would	It wouldn't	It would	It wouldn't
18%	54%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Banks and Investment.

7. "The Government would be likely to make better use of the banks' money than the banks do now."

PUBLIC OPINION		YOUR OPINION	
It would	It wouldn't	It would	It wouldn't
27%	55%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. "The Government would use some of banks' customers' money to support unsuccessful businesses."

PUBLIC OPINION		YOUR OPINION	
It would	It wouldn't	It would	It wouldn't
50%	21%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. "If the banks were nationalised, people would be less willing to save or invest their money in them."

PUBLIC OPINION		YOUR OPINION	
They would	They wouldn't	They would	They wouldn't
60%	18%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## What's your opinion?

We want to hear from everyone, whether they're for or against bank nationalisation.

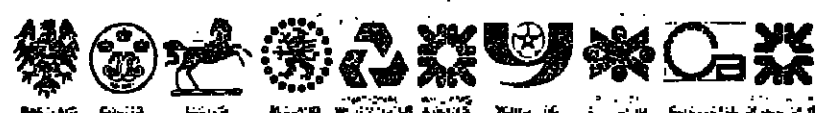
So please tick the boxes in this advertisement and send us the page or, if you would

prefer, write us a letter giving your views.

You can deliver it to any branch of any bank listed here, in an envelope marked "The Banks Debate." Or you can post it to us at the address on the right.

## THE BANKS

10 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON EC3V 9AP





## HOME NEWS

## Five chosen to take part in the space race

By Michael Horsnell

programme to find European first astronaut was launched on a tide of spin and tonic from the eighth floor of the Department of Industry in London yesterday.

The department's space division introduced to the press five young Britons who will be competing with 55 other Europeans for the first extra terrestrial vacancy offered by the European Space Agency.

The successful applicant, for whom no previous experience is necessary, will have the good fortune to be blasted from Cape Canaveral in 1980 in the company of a so far unnamed American for a seven-day tour of duty in the European space laboratory.

The five, chosen by a joint panel of Department of Industry and Science Research Council, are Mr Geoffrey Firmin, aged 29, a nuclear physicist, from Wimbledon, Mr William Guit, aged 27, a metallurgist, from Sevenoaks, Kent, Mr Arthur Ince, aged 31, a medical research physicist, from Birmingham, Dr Keith Mason, aged 26, an astronomer, from Croydon, and Dr Michael Rieff, aged 39, a lecturer in physics, from Southampton.

They were among the six hundred people who answered an advertisement in June which attracted applications from a boy of nine as well as a woman of 70 who said she wanted to do something useful.

Their names have been submitted to the European Space Agency which will consider a total of 60 people, from 15 countries. Later this year six will be selected to undergo



Aspiring astronauts: Mr Guit, Dr Ince, Dr Mason and Mr Firmin.

further screening, and then a final three will be sent to America for training for the joint American-European space mission, Spacelab.

The press conference was attended by Mr Kenneth Robinson, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, who announced that only a small proportion of the 600 applications for an out-of-this-world job were from Britain, and he would be very disappointed if the first Euro-astronaut was not British.

He added: "We decided we would advertise the job widely because we wanted to make sure we would properly tap the reserves of talent we have in this country. You do not necessarily do that on a 'who knows who' basis."

Spacelab will be launched on a reusable space craft now undergoing tests in America. Although two of the Europeans who will go to America for final training will be chosen, they may get a later chance

to go into space if the project continues. Most of the candidates for the job, which carries a salary of more than £10,000 and is tax free, were impressing everyone yesterday with their super-fitness. Mr Firmin, who does not smoke and was sipping an orange juice, said he had spent three years with the British Antarctic survey and insisted that, even with the odds of 60 to one, he will be chosen as Britain's first astronaut.

## Staggered school hours for cheaper transport

By Our Transport Correspondent

Staggered school hours could help to arrest the decline in public transport, a study by the Local Government Operational Research Unit suggests. Buses make their best use of the road to provide for the peak, and the time and size of the peak are mainly determined by the times open and close.

In Huddersfield, where the study was made, half the bus trips in the peak half-hour of school, staggering school hours to reduce the size of the

peak would lead to "substantial economies" in the bus undertaking, the study says. It might also cause social difficulties, the Council of Local Education Authorities said last night.

Other ideas proposed by the study include higher fares for peak than for off-peak travel, and planning new developments close to bus routes. Huddersfield Bus Study, Volume 3 (Local Government Operational Research Unit, 201 King's Road, Reading RG1 4LN; £5 to non-members).

## Blind oppose radio advertising aim

By Kenneth Gosling

Opposition to any local radio station being set up on a significant extent on advertising revenue is expressed by the National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom in comments on the Annan report.

The federation points out that information in such advertising is "tiny in amount and highly biased and selective". It says more consumer information should be provided on non-commercial local radio.

The kind of information that should be given would cover, for example, the opening hours, prices, hours of opening, special offers and services offered by small shopkeepers.

The federation complains that the Annan report almost entirely ignored the potential of local radio for community broadcasting. It maintains that everything it wanted to say about local radio as community radio Annan said about cable television.

It endorsed the committee's suggestions for helping the deaf and the blind, but said it would help if every radio channel carried a review of the day's programmes; that there should be more cross-trailing between different BBC radio and television channels; that every television programme should begin with an oral

announcement, and that many blind "viewers" would be pleased if cast lists were announced orally. Brief summary: A summary of Annan running to 51 pages, against 500 of the original, and costing 50p, against £7.25, has been produced by the National Federation of Light.

Mr Raymond Johnston, its director, says it has been prepared for teachers, journalists, clergy, youth groups and voluntary bodies. "In summary," he says, "it reflects their concern with moral values and programme standards."

## Grunwick says in reply to Scarman report that it will never reinstate workers on strike

In its response to the report of the Scarman inquiry into the dispute at Grunwick Processing Laboratories the company said yesterday that, where possible, it will meet the recommendations of the report. But it will not reinstate the strikers who were dismissed. Nor will it consider ex-gratia payments to strikers. The full text of the company's reply is as follows:

When the Secretary of State for Employment, using the powers conferred upon him by Section 4 of the Industrial Disputes Act 1976, established an inquiry into the dispute at Grunwick Processing Laboratories, Lord Justice Scarman, with Mr J. P. Lowry and Mr T. Parry, as the other members of the inquiry, considered the dispute and the terms of the court should be:

To inquire into the causes and circumstances of, and relevant to, the dispute, other than any matter before the High Court, until the final determination of those proceedings, and to report. This was in itself a very peculiar remit, because few concerned citizens could have been aware that Grunwick was in dispute with its employees, and that the dispute was being referred to the House of Lords. Fewer still could have known that the dispute was being referred to the House of Lords. Fewer still could have known that the dispute was being referred to the House of Lords.

But when this "policy of the law" is examined, it turns out to have nothing to do with law of the land, but to be a device to make any orders which were legally enforceable (unlike a normal court which operates within clearly laid down rules and which can make legally enforceable orders which are subject to appeal).

Grunwick was therefore, from the outset, presented with a difficult choice. The Government was not an impartial observer of the dispute. It had given complete backing to APEX. In all discussions with Grunwick management the Government had urged it to capitulate to the strikers. Three Government ministers had joined APEX's picket line outside Grunwick. It was beyond belief that a Government committed so completely to APEX should establish an inquiry that it thought would produce a report hostile to that trade union's interests. On the other hand, if Grunwick refused to cooperate with the inquiry, it would be held to have such cases and circumstances investigated. That in turn would be transformed into an admission that the Government was not a neutral party. The company had little doubt that any inquiry would reflect the

APEX version of how the strike started. Even if the recommendations bore little relation to the facts, the inquiry would be a fully constructed edifice of falsehood, which had gained widespread currency because of widespread acceptance of the APEX version of the facts. Grunwick therefore offered the court of inquiry its complete cooperation in determining the causes and circumstances of the dispute and fulfilling its instructions from the Secretary of State. But Grunwick refused to be bound by the recommendations of the inquiry might make.

Grunwick believes the wisdom of the court's actions it took will be apparent to those who read the report of the inquiry. The evidence, as expected, favours Grunwick. The recommendations, as expected, do not. Before commenting in detail, Grunwick thinks it will be helpful to explain its attitude towards the philosophy that lies behind the report. It is not a philosophy based upon malice, nor upon a desire to punish. It is a philosophy of the corporate state. The report does not of course claim that the law is the basis of the dispute, but the legislation needed to sustain a corporate state and that Grunwick are lawbreakers for not complying with the law. The report makes constant references to Grunwick's scrupulous observance of the law and to the company's belief that the law is the basis of the dispute. But the praise is qualified by an occasional reference to the "letter of the law" and there are several references to the "spirit of the law", or even more vaguely to the "policy of the law". Grunwick believes that the "letter of the law" is not the basis of the dispute, but the "spirit of the law" is. The report makes constant references to Grunwick's scrupulous observance of the law and to the company's belief that the law is the basis of the dispute. But the praise is qualified by an occasional reference to the "letter of the law" and there are several references to the "spirit of the law", or even more vaguely to the "policy of the law".

## 'Conciliating the trade unions'

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There was an element of pre-determination in Mr Bhudja's departure. He had become disenchanted with the company and a week earlier had discussed with some of the management the possibility of joining a union. He had carried his dissatisfaction with the company to the management and had been told that he should seek and obtain the promise of a job elsewhere before, on his own admission, he proved the incident which brought about his dismissal.

That should establish beyond doubt that Mr Bhudja was dismissed and the question that arises is why? Again the report very clearly explains the facts—facts which Grunwick has been asserting and the strikers denying since the beginning of the dispute. Mrs Jayaben Desai, who subsequently became the strike leader, was not dismissed at all. As the report says: "There was an altercation and Mrs Desai asked for her cards and walked out. On the following Monday morning they were outside Grunwick with placards. The report explains: At the lunch hour Mr Sunil Desai and very probably some others arrived with placards. They were taken to the mail room department, for an afternoon walk-out. It was timed for 3.00 pm: about 50 walked out. When the placards from inside reached the street, there was shouting and excitement, and an inconclusive parley with management. The strikers decided to march round the factory. From inside the factory came out a group of men. Some of them tried to force an entry and broke some windows."

So far, so good, and we might reasonably expect on the basis of this evidence that the report would support the case for reinstatement and that Grunwick very properly dismissed those who were intent upon destroying its property. But the report draws no such conclusion from the evidence. It does not think Grunwick should have paid much attention to the incident, on the incredible grounds that "although there was some violence, it was short-lived".

It is not dealing with the incident as a whole, but only with the university admitted right of an employer to dismiss an employee for misconduct. Yet according to the report, the employer should not dismiss for misconduct an employee who commits an act that would be punishable in a court of law. These are strange standards indeed, and Grunwick rejects them out of hand. We believe the report is in error, illogical in its reasoning, dangerous in its implications, and arguing contrary to custom and practice not to mention common sense. The attitude of Grunwick to trade unions has been the source of the dispute. It is not exaggerating the matter to say that many within the trade union movement have taken little account of the dispute, were it not for the constant repetition of the single most important claim of the report, that they were dismissed for joining a trade union. The passage is worth quoting. "The findings of the court of inquiry are of little importance. Though Grunwick believes that the findings do less than justice to the management, it is not the management's fault. It is the fault of the false claim that workers were dismissed for joining a trade union that the passage is worth quoting. "The findings of the court of inquiry are of little importance. Though Grunwick believes that the findings do less than justice to the management, it is not the management's fault. It is the fault of the false claim that workers were dismissed for joining a trade union that the passage is worth quoting."

chooses. Nevertheless, the company, we are sure, does all that it can to persuade its employees to join a union. There is, we stress, nothing unlawful in the company's attitude towards 'unionism'. But the report draws no such conclusion from the evidence. It does not think Grunwick should have paid much attention to the incident, on the incredible grounds that "although there was some violence, it was short-lived".

Grunwick does less to persuade its workers against joining trade unions than it does to persuade them to join. Nevertheless the vital point, that the company would not resist recognition if the workforce desired it and accepted the right of individual workers to join trade unions, was accepted by the court of inquiry.

Grunwick might take issue with the report, if it more clearly understood what was meant by the report. In the passage, it is not the company's attitude towards 'unionism' that is under attack, but the company's attitude towards 'unionism' that is under attack.

## 'Most employees against union'

In what sense is it less "reasonable", not to wish to join an association, than to wish to do so? If the company is to be reasonable, it is not to join a union, which is he unreasonable in exercising that right. But, as the report says, "it is not the company's attitude towards 'unionism' that is under attack, but the company's attitude towards 'unionism' that is under attack."

There is no doubt that the report has performed a most valuable public service by disposing of the arguments and claims made by the strikers. The inquiry, on page 10, quotes from the report: "The findings of the court of inquiry are of little importance. Though Grunwick believes that the findings do less than justice to the management, it is not the management's fault. It is the fault of the false claim that workers were dismissed for joining a trade union that the passage is worth quoting. "The findings of the court of inquiry are of little importance. Though Grunwick believes that the findings do less than justice to the management, it is not the management's fault. It is the fault of the false claim that workers were dismissed for joining a trade union that the passage is worth quoting."

As will be apparent from the foregoing, Grunwick does not believe that the recommendations of the inquiry follow from the evidence. It might have been better if the inquiry had pursued its original intention and made no reference to reinstatement, trade union illegality, the censoring of the inquiry upon trade unions for law-breaking is couched in such terms as to make probable a repetition of the offence, and gives no hope to those who wish to see official bodies at least attempt to differentiate between those who break the law and those who are at pains to observe it.

Where possible Grunwick will meet the recommendations of the inquiry but it regretfully believes that reinstatement of strikers is equally impracticable. The inquiry, on page 10, quotes from the report: "The findings of the court of inquiry are of little importance. Though Grunwick believes that the findings do less than justice to the management, it is not the management's fault. It is the fault of the false claim that workers were dismissed for joining a trade union that the passage is worth quoting. "The findings of the court of inquiry are of little importance. Though Grunwick believes that the findings do less than justice to the management, it is not the management's fault. It is the fault of the false claim that workers were dismissed for joining a trade union that the passage is worth quoting."

## 'Corporatist prejudices'

Where Grunwick is disposed to accept a measure of criticism contained in the report is in respect of its grievance procedure. The inquiry says: "If there be no adequate ways and means of handling grievances even fanciful ones, can pose serious industrial problems. The inquiry is stating a general proposition and not accusing Grunwick of having no means of dealing with grievances. Nevertheless, it is critical of the procedures that existed at the time the dispute began. Grunwick will not plead all the difficulties that it has encountered in this sphere. It accepts that there was room for improvement in its grievance procedure. Everything has been done to make certain that no similar complaint can be made in the future. Grunwick does not for a moment believe that any employee was unjustly treated, but has changed its procedure so that even the suggestion of a complaint has been obviated. We accept that in industrial relations the "functional" element can play a part. Grunwick does not have a bargaining relationship with its workers, that accepts them as industrial partners in a productive enterprise. Perhaps the

The inquiry says: "Compulsory overtime was at times a burden but more often

was seen as a welcome addition to the wage packet". But what about strikers who were harassed by having to hold their hands to the lavatory? That never happened either. What did happen is explained: "The inquiry, on page 10, quotes from the report: "The findings of the court of inquiry are of little importance. Though Grunwick believes that the findings do less than justice to the management, it is not the management's fault. It is the fault of the false claim that workers were dismissed for joining a trade union that the passage is worth quoting. "The findings of the court of inquiry are of little importance. Though Grunwick believes that the findings do less than justice to the management, it is not the management's fault. It is the fault of the false claim that workers were dismissed for joining a trade union that the passage is worth quoting."

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## In brief

## George Ince to be married

Mr George Ince, at present serving a 15-year prison sentence for a bullion robbery he maintains he did not commit, was told yesterday that he will be released for an hour next Wednesday to get married (our Crime Correspondent writes).

The Home Office announced that arrangements, at his request, had been made for his marriage to Mrs Dolly Grey, to take place at Hammersmith Register Office.

## Banks double rewards

The London clearing banks announced last night that from today the rewards to be paid for assistance in securing the conviction of bank raiders will be doubled to £5,000 (our Crime Correspondent writes).

Since the reward scheme started in 1960, 263 awards have been made totalling £103,400. Between 1960 and 1971 the maximum of £1,000 was paid on 10 occasions. Since then the maximum of £2,500 has been paid nine times.

## Sit-in woman has her operation

Mrs Violet Small, aged 48, had an operation on her crippled hip joint at St Albans Hospital, Hertfordshire, yesterday. She had been occupying an office at the hospital for 10 hours.

Mrs Small, who has waited two years for her operation, was to have had it last Tuesday but it was put off. That was the second time it happened, so she staged a sit-in.

## £22,000 rings snatched

Six hundred diamond rings valued at about £22,000 were stolen by two men, one of them armed, who ambushed a jewelry representative at Offington, Wokingham, Sussex, yesterday.

## Course for jobs

Thirteen comprehensive schools throughout Liverpool have agreed to start this month a "return and learn" course for hundreds among the city's 11,000 young unemployed.

## Phones still cut off

About three thousand telephone subscribers in north-west London are still cut off as a result of flooding two weeks ago. The Post Office said yesterday.

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inter



# Trinity House decides to come down from its ivory tower

Under a new supplementary charter (not the first since

of thing that is happening throughout the nation."

been more than just a chauffeur-valet but who was his friend for the past 25 years.

constituents, 286 were to central



4ET. 53p (including postage).

**More Home News, page 16**

made no order after the union had undertaken not to proceed with the referendum pending the next hearing of Miss Hart's application for an order.

all and that Mr Halahan has resigning his living after 11 years and soon moving to the mainland.

**Personal Export:** If you are eligible to purchase a L

[illegible]

hearing of Miss Bart's application [years and soon moving to the  
for an order. mainland.

Miss Diane Bart, the actress, was not granted a temporary High Court order to prevent Equity, the actors' union, from holding a strike over pay changes, as authorized in a Press Association report on August 25. The judge made no order after the union had undertaken not to proceed with a strike over ending the application for a hearing of Miss Bart's application for an order.

**Personal Export:** If you are eligible to purchase a Lancia free of taxes, contact our Export Department.

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## WEST EUROPE

# French Cabinet adopts spending programme to help unemployed but denies it is reflating economy

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Aug 31

Measures to help the unemployed, especially the young, were announced after today's Cabinet meeting. The projects involved will cost many millions, but M. Barre, the Prime Minister, strenuously denied that he was in any way reflating the economy. It was, he said, purely a support operation.

The main steps to be taken are:

Reducing the lending rate from 10.5 to 9.5 per cent and the base rate from 9.6 to 9.3 per cent.

Holding rent increases at 5 per cent in state housing while making another 15,000 homes available for rent purchase and a further 16,500 on subsidised rentals under a new scheme.

Releasing £100m for building and public works.

Passing £60m on to local authorities for development in their area.

Increasing loan aid for large industrial projects from £230m to £350m.

Helping companies in financial difficulty, with measures to be announced soon.

Raising the annual school grant from £35 to £53.

These spending measures are to be accompanied by a new clampdown on workers who stay unemployed by choice. The national labour exchange staff is to be increased, and industry and local authorities are to

cooperate in a scheme to make sure every available job is well advertised in post offices. The cases of everyone who has not found a job within three months will be carefully examined and there will be stricter control on rejection of job offers.

President Giscard d'Estaing said after the Cabinet meeting that the past year had seen the French economy reestablished with a hike in the fall of the franc's value and an improvement in exports.

This had made possible slower price rises and better job opportunities, he said. These are the two areas where M. Barre's economic plan has failed to make any progress and which he thus likely to be most electorally damaging.

Emphasis on improving housing is meant not only to fulfil one of M. Giscard d'Estaing's main commitments, but also to help the depressed building industry.

The President summed up the situation as he now saw it: "For the past four years the world has been entering a new phase, marked by a slower growth rate and new power blocks. Faced with this situation, some of the industrial nations have been tempted to slacken and to slide into decline. Others, who have faced up to the situation, are reaping the first fruits of taking the courageous choice."

France has decided to stay in that little group of countries capable of overcoming the problems of the pre-

sent time. She has made her choice. It has not been an easy one—as some have warned her—but one needing effort, courage and rebuilding."

M. Barre, meanwhile, said that his prescription for French recovery would not involve brutal braking and massive thrusts on the accelerator.

He emphasised that the wage earner's purchasing power had not fallen in the past year compared to Britain, where there had been an "amputation" of living standards.

If salaries had continued to grow at the rate of past years, he said, France would now be in a gray economic state.

M. Edmond Maire, the leader of the socialist trade union federation, agreed that wages must be kept down, although his arguments are somewhat different. In an interview with *France Soir* today M. Maire calls for a top limit of 13,000 francs (£1,530) a month on all salaries, with a basic wage of 2,200 francs (£258).

This drive to improve the lot of the lower paid worker while cutting back the top salaries has already run into some of the industrial nations have been tempted to slacken and to slide into decline. Others, who have faced up to the situation, are reaping the first fruits of taking the courageous choice."

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## Immunity dispute over 'beating of MP'

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, Aug 31

A dispute over parliamentary immunity continued here today with three investigations under way, prompted by allegations that police beat up a congressional deputy of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) last weekend in Santander.

A spokesman for the PSOE, the main opposition party in parliament, said in Madrid today that the party is still waiting for an answer to its demand for a special plenary session of Parliament at which Senator Rodolfo Martín Villa, the Interior Minister, can be questioned about the incident and related matters.

The Interior Minister has sent senior police officials to Santander to look into the matter. He told journalists in Madrid last night that he could not make any firm judgment until he had heard from the investigators in his own ministry.

"Besides," he added, "as Interior Minister it is my obligation to keep up the morale of the forces of public order."

A second investigation is being carried out by a special parliamentary committee.

The third is under way as a result of claims made by policemen involved in the alleged beating of the Socialist deputy, Señor Jaime Blanco, insulted them. This last investigation is to substantiate charges brought by the policeman.

The storm over parliamentary immunity began last Saturday after a political rally in Santander in favour of regional autonomy. While all the circumstances are not clear it appears that Señor Santiago Carrillo, the secretary-general of the Spanish Communist Party, the Interior Minister, had replied that he was ready to quit at any time if he felt he should. But he did not give any indication that this time had now come.

The Socialist rejected efforts by Señor Ignacio Camacho, the Minister of the Interior, to settle the issue in talks between party representatives and members of the Government. In what appeared to be an effort to play down the incident, Señor Camacho went so far as to say: "There will be more Santander cases before Spain finally gets used to democracy."

But such an explanation is far from satisfactory for the PSOE. The Socialist Party's position is that the alleged attack by police on their deputy after he had identified himself as such, was a flagrant violation of the principle of parliamentary immunity, and was an attempt to intimidate the Opposition.

The party considers that the attack on Señor Blanco should be interpreted as an attack on Parliament as an institution by forces whose mission is to defend the institutions of the state.

## OVERSEAS

## Increased prosperity blamed for drinking problem

# Soviet doctors and economists alarmed by level of alcoholism

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, Aug 31

The Soviet Union's drink problem has now reached "alarming" dimensions according to no less an authority than the Moscow correspondent of *L'Unité*, the Communist Party newspaper.

The results of studies by Soviet scientists show that drinking not only increases crime and reduces productivity but can no longer be considered a sickness of capitalism that has survived in socialist society.

Instead, alcoholism is seen to "worry and alarm doctors and economists". Even more shocking, presumably, to a Marxist is that one of the reasons given for the failure to face the problem is that the legal manufacture and sale of alcoholic drinks is a state monopoly which brings a sizeable income into the national exchequer.

The latest serious initiative in looking at the problem comes from the Academy of Sciences in Siberia. In particular, attention has been drawn to the damage caused by alcohol in a report by Stanislav Strumilin, a member of the Academy.

His work has recently been the basis for discussions between doctors, journalists, sociologists, psychiatrists, politicians and writers at Novosibirsk.

Strumilin's basic contention was that drunkenness caused a serious loss in human energy. The extent of addiction was measured largely in terms of consumption of highly alcoholic drink.

In Britain, some 79 per cent of alcoholic drinking is limited to beer and in Italy wine-drinking accounts for 91 per cent, but in countries such as the

Soviet Union, the United States, Sweden and Finland more than 50 per cent consists of highly alcoholic drinks.

In the Soviet Union, working in the figures for 1956-66, the proportion was 62.3 per cent of strong spirits, mainly vodka. Even that figure was not complete because of the unknown amount of home-produced alcohol, especially in country areas.

In the Dneprovsk province of the Moscow region, tests showed that the amount of home-produced alcohol was not far behind the officially made production. In 1960 an average of nearly 13 litres of vodka were drunk by every inhabitant and 10½ litres of home-made alcohol.

There is no reason to suppose that the situation has improved; rather the reverse.

Strumilin gave as the first consequence a list of social ills beginning with a rise in crime. There was a noticeably higher level of crime in the republics where hard drinks were normal than in the wine-drinking republics of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, where wine was the basic drink.

The economic consequences were, he felt, increasingly serious with the advance of automation which no longer required simple physical strength but mental concentration, attention and quick reactions. All these qualities were the first to suffer the effects of heavy drinking.

The Siberian Academy estimated that, if workers could be kept sober, there would be a rise of 10 per cent in productivity. Even a partial sobriety, an increase of 2-3 per cent could be expected.

Productivity in factories dropped regularly after a holiday, a weekend and pay day.

The reasons which Strumilin gave for drunkenness were "internal tension", the desire to be free from the burdens of life in society, and the inability to use the increasing amount of free time offered by reforms.

These reasons suggest that alcoholism may well be increasing. According to the president of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, drunkenness is the cause of many crimes or the condition in which they are committed. In 1971 some 55.8 per cent of thefts, 77 per cent of robberies and 69.3 per cent of cases of physical violence to obtain other peoples' property were committed under the influence of drink.

Strumilin's first proposal for improvement was to reduce the alcoholic content of vodka by 25 per cent, without lowering the price, so that the state need not suffer a loss. He then called for stricter measures against private distilling so that home-made alcohol did not fill the gap left by weaker official vodka. He wanted an increase in the production of non-alcoholic drinks and a serious economic and social study on the damage caused by alcoholism.

The round table at Novosibirsk endorsed Strumilin's views and added a few alarming facts of its own. In the Russian Federation alone, about 58 per cent of fatal traffic accidents were caused by drunk drivers and 63 per cent of people who drown in the rivers and lakes of the Moscow region are drunk.

Professor Boris, of Moscow's Psychiatric Institute, says that increasing productivity, free medical treatment and cheaper housing give those with a weakness for drink the chance to become chronic alcoholics.

## President takes to TV to promote energy crisis

From Michael Leapman  
New York, Aug 31

The difficulty President Carter has in persuading Americans that there is an energy crisis was illustrated in a television programme taped for broadcast tonight. In a three-hour programme devoted entirely to energy, the President answered questions from viewers. Two of the 10 questions said that they did not believe that there was an energy shortage.

In his answers, the President revealed that the United States now has a 10-month reserve of oil, stored in the ground in oil domes in the west end of the country. He pointed out that with domestic oil production falling by about 6 per cent a year, the country was more and more dependent on overseas supplies.

Most of the oil in the domes came from overseas, he said. "If we do have another embargo, rather than have our country brought to its knees, we could at least have about a 10-month supply of oil that's already been imported and stored."

He went on: "We are searching for new oil. We are not finding it. Our supplies are drying away. At the same time, demands for oil are increasing. So, we are going to have, consequently, a depletion of the crisis unless we act."

To another question, the President admitted that it was hard to prove the existence of a crisis when there were no queues at petrol stations. "But there's no doubt that the energy shortage is here, it's getting increasingly severe through out the world and it's going to approach a crisis stage without very much delay in the future, so we've got to conserve oil and gas, shift to coal and other supplies. He also mentioned his Administration's drive to encourage the production and sale of smaller cars, and the insulation of homes."

The last question came from a young boy named Eamon who asked what could be done to produce more energy by the time he grew up. The President mentioned his goals on energy savings to be made by 1985 and concluded: "I should have been done 10 years ago. Eamon, I think you should be 1 and the Congress will have presented to the American people a comprehensive energy package built into law that will make you have a productive and a happy and enjoyable life when you're an adult."

Trawlers intercepted off French Guiana. Cayenne, French Guiana, Aug 31.—Six foreign trawlers—three American, two Japanese and South Korean—were intercepted for operating within French Guiana's 12-mile fishing zone. The shrimp fishing season has just begun.

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## E Germany Marxist challenges 'dogma'

From Greta Spitzer  
Berlin, Aug 31

Attempts by lawyers to give legal assistance to Herr Rudolf Bahro, the Marxist critic who was arrested in East Germany on August 23, have failed so far.

This was disclosed at a press conference in Bonn today when the Cologne publishing house, Europäische Verlagsanstalt, presented Herr Bahro's book *The Alternative—On Criticism of Socialism as it Really Exists*.

A tape with Herr Bahro's remark made before his arrest was played at the conference.

Speaking about his book he said that the situation as it had developed since Heinrich, and even more so since the communist summit in East Berlin (where Soviet dogmatism was challenged) should be exploited as Eurocommunism had shown its capability of presenting an ideological challenge to the Soviet party machinery.

The party machinery should become used to facing an open opposition, it had to be forced to fight in the open. Bahro added that his book was to provide the basis for an opposition to the ruling party machinery.

Observers in the East German scene do not think that Herr Bahro will achieve his purpose, particularly as Soviet intervention is blamed for his arrest. The observers doubt whether he will be put on trial as they would give him an opportunity to spread his ideas.

East German authorities banned the publication of Herr Bahro's book when he offered it to East German publishers. Copies of his manuscript were circulated, however, before the book was printed in the West.

By his own request the book is to be sent to Western communist parties as a basis for discussion among the left.

The observers do not exclude that Herr Bahro might be "bought free by the West and expelled from East Germany to prevent a discussion about him and his ideas."

Considering the number of writers and actors who were recently allowed to move to the West, it seems obvious that East Germany prefers to get rid of its critics instead of facing an open debate.

## France warns Spain on farming interests

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Aug 31

President Giscard d'Estaing told Señor Suárez, the Spanish Prime Minister, "fairly and honestly" today that France would not sacrifice agriculture in its southern regions to ease Spain's way into the European Community.

The two leaders had a working lunch at the Elysée Palace during which the Spanish entry into the EEC was the main topic. An official statement later said that the inclusion of Spain must carry reciprocal advantages. France had decided not to give up farming in its south and the Community had to make arrangements which would protect these producers as much as it did any others.

"The negotiations to come must be carried out with precision and realism, so that the guarantees and alterations are fixed at the required level. Finally the Community must study the consequences that will accrue from a new enlargement of the Community to ensure the easy functioning of its institutions."

Señor Suárez left the Elysée saying that he was "very satisfied with the talks which had been carried out in the spirit of friendship and cordiality which unites our two countries."

Whatever the spirit of the talks there is no doubt that France is seriously worried about the consequences of Spain's entry into the Community for its agriculture, particularly the production of fruit, vegetables and wine.

The area just north of the Spanish border was one of the depressed regions visited by M. Barre, the Prime Minister, during his recent tour. He as well as the President and M. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, have all promised to fight Spain's entry if the terms are wrong.

France is also worried that Spain, with its cheap labour, could prove a strong industrial competitor. There are fears too that the high inflation rate there—just short of 20 per cent—might be exported as well if Spain joins the Community.

Copenhagen, Aug 31.—A referendum in Spain on whether it should join the EEC is unnecessary, Señor Suárez said here last night.

He was visiting Denmark as part of his consultation tour before going to France, where he did not conceal that in France and Italy he will have to deal with fears of Spanish competition in agriculture. But he added that considerations of trade were not the only ones in building Europe—Agence France-Presse.

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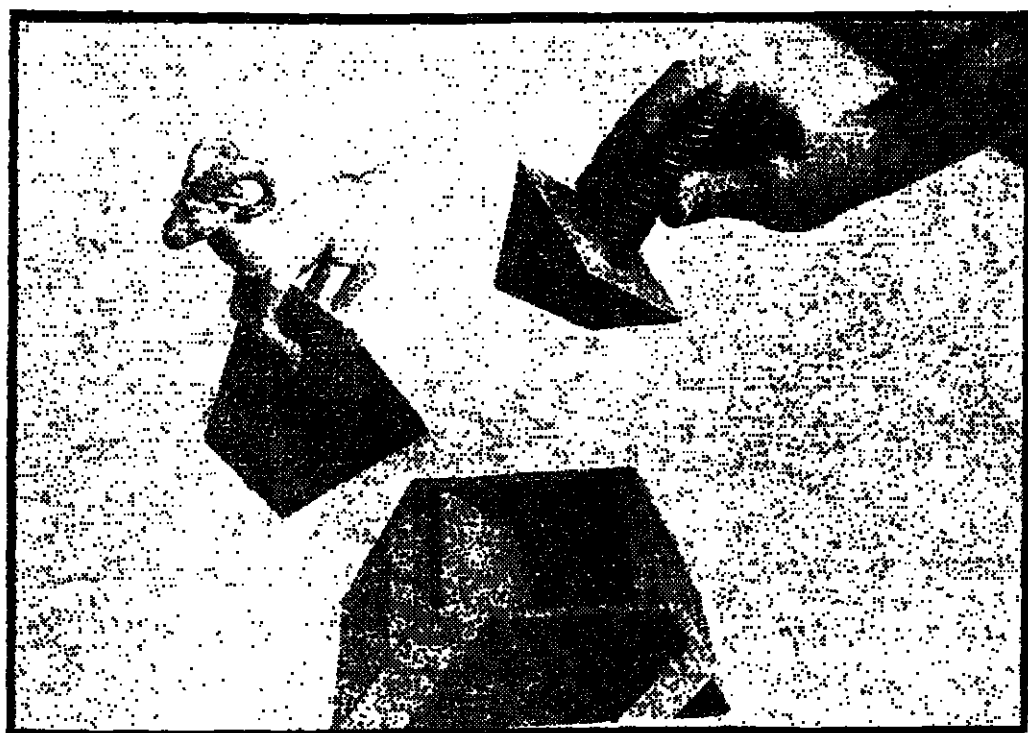






## Design

by Prudence Glynn



Photographs by Harry Kerr

## The bridge between beauty and utility

In 1973 the Victoria and Albert Museum mounted an exhibition called *The Craftsman's Art*. No venue could have been of course more appropriate since the V and A was originally dedicated to celebrating the superior moral and economic virtues of good design coupled with hard work; the "joy through work" admired by William Morris, indeed.

However, since those fine high minded days the degree of admiration accorded to the working craftsman has declined. In the popular imagination, he became not so much a friend, neighbour, crucial manufacturer and repairer of the utilities and beauties of life in your own community, as a jeans-clad iconoclastic student stagging in on a state-provided grant. Or if not the former, then a weird figure making corn dollies and superannuated wheels for the benefit of the tourist trade.

On the other side of the coin, design trained students and craftsmen, many of them extremely gifted and radical, despaired of the level of public taste, public understanding of what their work was actually about, and public willingness to pay a viable price for hours of hand labour and innovative thought. There was even a fringe area in student thinking that good, or better, design was somehow immoral because it did seem to cost more than rubbish and therefore it was likely to be reserved for the more "privileged" members of society.

I have to say at this point that I regard this concept as about the greatest indictment of British design

education, for it implies a lack of instruction both in philosophy and economics. "Good" or "better" design begins at whatever level the product you are making is aimed at, it can—and mostly should be—more attractive everyday practical objects for the chain stores, or it can be an amazing hand-printed, devotedly worked dress by Zandra Rhodes, which will have just the same effect on the mass market because it will be copied, albeit ever so crudely.

A prime factor in good design is that it is producible at a price which fits it to the market for which it was intended. Otherwise it is badly designed, just as though it was not functional or efficient. If the product is too expensive for its potential destination, then the designer has not learnt—or not been taught—crucial aspects of his profession.

The initiator of the V and A exhibition was Lord Eccles, then Minister for the Arts. Being a very thoughtful man, and a man of strong tastes which are not muddled up with a lot of well-intentioned but ineffectual clap-trap, he saw that the time was right to re-establish the working craftsman as a force in society. The show was tremendous success. Furniture, macramé, textiles, pots, baskets, jewelry, objects of amusement and decoration, it introduced the work of people who had hitherto been an accepted and unremarkable part of any town or village to those who would in the past have patronized the nearest Woolworths. It had one major flaw. There were no prices on the goods and the whole business about meeting the

designer and perhaps saying you would prefer five legs on your chair, or a little bit less mauve and green and a bit more mouse and terra cotta was too discreet. The exhibition sought to promote private patronage from the most modest price, but the British have long been suspicious of and hostile to the craftsman, and the two need to be brought together more forcibly.

Lord Eccles saw the V and A exhibition as the "bridge between beauty and utility" which is the place he accords, rightly and succinctly, to the working craftsman. It was therefore very salutary to have his comments on the current exhibition at the British Crafts Centre, 43 Earlham Street, London, WC2E (01-836 6893).

"The last queen of England had her silver jubilee in 1862. In the same year Ruskin published *Unto the Last*, a series of articles collected in book form imbued with his own brand of romantic socialism. It is an attack on the brutality of Victorian capitalism and envisages a society in which schemes of vocational training would be set up in government workshops which would regulate standards of workmanship and payment," writes Marigold Goldman, editor of *Crafts Magazine* in her foreword to the Masterpiece catalogue. Readers may recall an analogy with the Russian concept of the artist-craftsman which I wrote about earlier this year. "These articles" continues Ms Coleman "had a profound effect on William Morris and his followers who in that year carried off two gold medals at the International Exhibition at South Kensington" (thus

proving that high morals need not rule out commercial success) "where his medieval style furniture and glass was praised for details and craftsmanship to the architectologist from the exactness of the imitation, at the same time the general effect is excellent."

It seems kinder to draw a veil over the idea of a great craftsman getting a gold medal for the excellence of his imitation. The things in the exhibition at the Crafts Centre are not, mostly, imitative, but there are some harsh remarks to be made about them. Lord Eccles's major criticism was the lack of selectivity in the exhibits—"when you just ask two hundred craftsmen to exhibit you get 200 assessors of what is good. Most designers are hopeless at judging their work, they probably just send in what they think will sell." He also disapproves the new costing system, a markup on prices of 100 per cent "when it used to be 35 per cent you could see a bowl, or a weaving, and even if it was quite out of your usual sort of thing to buy it still wasn't frightening, it could introduce you to a whole new craftsman's talent." We agreed that it is the re-forming of the relationship between customer and designer which is crucial.

Maybe this was one reason why I was so taken with a visit to Fosseway House Workshops at Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire. Here, in a crumbling Victorian Gothic mansion (44 rooms, exotic plumbing and wiring), a group of very talented and very dedicated young people have set up workshops and quasi-communal living. Chibblains are mitigated by

the unparalleled views around the house, which is superbly sited, and is in any case imbued with that vigour and confidence which makes Victorian family houses so attractive.

The atmosphere at Fosseway House combines the best sort of approachability and friendliness with really top class, forward looking work; heaven forbid the craftsmen become a sort of country fair ogling point, not a practical part of whatever he lives. There are jewellers, tapestry makers, textiles designers, cabinet makers, carvers and an entrancing collection of ceramic musical instruments inspired by American Indians by Neil Ions, ex RCA. There is also a splendid printmaker and painter called Christopher Noble. He calls his business the Blue Nose Press, for reasons immediately obvious to those familiar with unheated Cotswold houses. How lucky that by the same post as I heard about Fosseway House (0451 330493) I got a circular from the Federation of British Craft Societies announcing a Pension Scheme for Craftsmen. Now, you can insure against the climatic intrusions of Chiltern, Cotswold, or Highlands and Islands (places where the east wind would take the point off the Forth Bridge). Arthritis, flu, and chills can all be countered by writing to the FBCS at 80A Southampton Row, London, WC1E enclosing a medium-sized stamped envelope. Any qualms about such a materialistic insurance should be smoothed by the information that the providers of the scheme are the Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association and Messrs Clay and Partners.



● Craftsmen at work at the Fosseway House Workshops, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire (0451 330493). Far left: Painted ceramic box open to release a twisted ceramic flute. Many of the pieces designed by Neil Ions are musical instruments—flutes or ocarinas—disguised as animals, birds, or decorative parts of larger ceramic pieces. The tone is charmingly soft and subtle. Everyone at Fosseway seems to be working on them. Centre: Julian Stanley and Conrad Clark, wood carvers and cabinet makers respectively, at work in the stables. Top: The gallery at Fosseway House. Above: Kate Baden Fuller reflected in one of her lovely mirrored pieces.

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Salary scale: £3,850-£5,050 (including London weighting).  
Full details and application forms from the Director, Greater London Arts Association, 25/27 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SJ. Closing date for full applications 12th September, 1977.

## GENERAL VACANCIES

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The Design Council is a government sponsored body employing approximately 350 staff and is responsible for promoting innovative standards of design in a wide variety of consumer and engineering products.  
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Candidates should be of graduate level ability should have a balanced, mature personality with the capacity for objective judgement and should ideally be studying or having for a professional qualification. They must have previous experience in recruitment and selection.  
We offer a starting salary of £3,416 p.a., nearly 5 weeks holiday, a contributory pension scheme and flexible working hours. Please write or phone for an application form to Miss E. G. Deputy Personnel Officer, Design Council, 28 Mark Lane, London EC3A 7BS. Tel: 04-539 8800 ext. 28.  
Closing date for applications is 23rd September.

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Write for details, quoting this paper and post, to Administrative Officer, U.K. Committee for UNICEF, 46-48 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3PU. Applications will be accepted not later than the 14th September, 1977.

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The appointee will be given the opportunity for familiarisation within the Western Australian Department of Tourism and attractions and facilities both of Western Australia and Australia.  
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Official Secretary, Western Australia House, 115 Strand, London WC2R 0AJ.  
Closing date for applications 12th September 1977.

for Western Australia

## GENERAL VACANCIES

## Libraries Department

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For full details and an application form (to be returned by 22 September, 1977) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0258) 58551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote G/16/382.

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The work will comprise the construction of:  
—A horse-shoe shaped gallery entirely lined with concrete of a diameter of some 4 metres and approximately 1,000 metres long.  
—Inlet and discharge structures (head works some 15 metres long, make-up basin approximately 25 metres long).

Civil engineering firms interested in the project may obtain tender specifications from Direction des Projets et Réalisations Hydrauliques, Oasis St. Charles—Birmendres—Algiers (Algérie).

Tenders accompanied by the necessary documentation should be sent in a sealed envelope to Monsieur le Directeur des Projets et des Réalisations Hydrauliques at the above address to arrive not later than 10 a.m. on 30 October 1977.

Bidders shall be bound by their tenders for a period of 120 days.

## LANARKSHIRE HEALTH BOARD

TENDERS are invited for the annual contract in respect of UNIFORMS FOR OUTDOOR NURSING STAFF, for the period commencing 1st October, 1977 to 30th September, 1978 and 1st October, 1978 to 30th September, 1979.

Form of tender may be obtained from THE SECRETARY, Lanarkshire Health Board, 14 Beckett Street, Hamilton GL2 0TA. Tel. Hamilton 21199 ext 247 or 223 (with whom offers should be lodged not later than Wednesday, 21st September, 1977).

هكوا من الا اهل



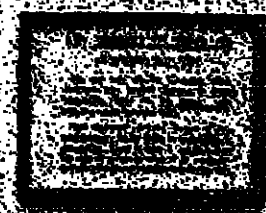
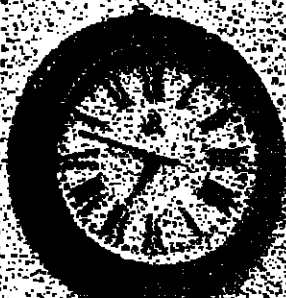








YOU MAY  
TELEPHONE  
FROM HERE



# Are kids a menace to our pubs?

You may remember a couple of advertisements we ran late last year. (Then again, you may not.)

They dealt with the subject of our licensing laws on the one hand, and violence in pubs on the other.

They drew a very satisfying response. All together, 7,800 people sent in the forms or wrote letters.

More than a few of the respondents touched on the law as it relates to children in pubs.

So we thought we would raise the matter in an advertisement designed to test the strength of feeling that exists.

Dwell on the subject while making your way across a rain-swept pub car park carrying orangeades to the little ones, and it seems ridiculous that they can't sit inside where it's cosy and dry.

On the other hand, what about the other bloke's noisy little monsters. Do you really want them racketing around the bar when you've dropped in for a quiet pint and a chat?

A number of ways out of this dilemma have been suggested.

As things stand, none of them seems likely to be adopted.

But if enough people can agree on one course of action, maybe we can help things along.

However, it would be foolish to pretend that a consensus will come easily.

For instance, some people believe that allowing children into pubs will increase the chance of them becoming drunkards.

On the other hand, others feel that the presence of the family would curb any inclination Dad may have to blow his wages buying drinks for the boys.

Many other people point out that allowing children in would radically alter the character of the British pub, a unique institution.

Some see this as highly undesirable.

In fact, a small number of Whitbread pubs have rooms set aside for people with children. Alcoholic drinks aren't served in the family room but soft drinks and crisps, nuts and biscuits often are.

And in a few, special facilities for children are provided such as football games and blackboards. In one, we've even installed low counters and low-level wash basins.

There could be more family rooms and they could be made even more attractive if the demand for them exists.

Another alternative could be a new type of establishment - the café-cum-pub.

A place where people of all ages would be admitted and tea, coffee, soft drinks and snacks would be sold as well as alcoholic drinks. (Of course, the age limit would still apply to people buying alcoholic drinks.)

It would require a change in the law for this type of establishment to come into existence, and it would mean heavy investment.

At the moment we aren't convinced that there is sufficient demand for café-cum-pubs to justify the effort.

So we would very much like to hear your views on the whole subject of children and pubs.

## We'd like to have your opinion.

Do you find the current laws inconvenient? Yes ☐ No ☐

Would you like to see café-cum-pubs without age restrictions? Yes ☐ No ☐

Would you like to see more childrens' rooms and gardens attached to public houses? Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you a publican? Yes ☐ No ☐

If you wish to expand on your views expressed above, or to raise additional aspects of the problem, we would like to hear from you. Please write to:

Advertising Department, Whitbread & Co. Ltd,  
The Brewery, Chiswell Street, London, EC1Y 4SD.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



WHITBREAD & CO LTD



George Ward, head of Grunwick, says categorically: 'We will not reinstate the strikers'

## Why I believe the Scarman inquiry was a political 'con-trick'

Was the Scarman inquiry set up as a means by which Grunwick might be deprived of those rights guaranteed to it by English law? Was it established because Grunwick had become an exceptional nuisance to those who see Britain's future as that of a collectivist, corporate state, in which any business can be obliged to surrender to coercion and brute force without embarrassing delay? Bluntly, was it in fact a political "con-trick"? I believe this to be the case.

Though termed a "court" of inquiry, its legal powers were strictly limited to calling evidence, while its recommendations are without any legal status whatsoever. Indeed, the composition of the court suggested the nature of the recommendations that might be expected: an eminent judge, flanked on one side by a left-wing trade unionist; and, on the other, by the personnel manager of a mammoth, nationalized industrial enterprise, British Leyland, which happens to have perhaps the worst industrial relations record in the country—and then, proceeding from an almost unbroken record of surrender to extravagant union demands met only at considerable cost to the taxpayer.

The learned judge was there to suggest the majority of the law. From the terms of the tribunal's findings, it seems his key colleagues were there to provide expert guidance—not on the nature and problems of small businesses such as Grunwick, of which they appeared to know little and understand even less, but on the corporate arrangements which govern the relationship between big business and the unions.

Though possessed of the powers, the court decided to take no evidence on oath, limited the numbers of witnesses

heard. What might appear to some as indecent haste was justified by the "court's" insistence that its investigation must respond to the imperative of a speedy conclusion. And the spotlight of publicity, of course, was to fall on the learned judge: his colleagues could beaver away in the shadows.

If justice was not to be done, and it was not—to uninformed members of the public, it was to appear to have been done.

Government spokesmen throughout advised capitulation to the strikers. Ministers of the Crown, to their eternal discredit, and without proper investigation of Grunwick's side of the case, have stood on the picket line.

Nor has the Government been notably assiduous in seeking to prevent the strikers from breaking the law. Little of practical use would have been done to stop the illegal blacking of Grunwick's mail had it not been for the protection provided by the law courts. Anticipation of much of this prompted our refusal to commit ourselves in advance to the findings of the "court".

Grunwick has issued a full statement on the findings of the inquiry. Its findings I can best summarize by saying that its account of the development of the dispute bears little relation to its final recommendations. The "court" appears



The Grunwick film-processing company yesterday rejected almost completely the recommendations of Lord Justice Scarman's Court of Inquiry into the year-old dispute. In this article, Mr George Ward, the owner and managing director of the company, pictured above in his factory, explains the arguments and philosophy behind his company's stand.

From the moment the Government announced the Scarman inquiry, we at Grunwick feared the intention behind it. The fact that Lord Justice Scarman, a certain measure of wit amusement.

happenings is in danger of losing votes. Yet its extreme left wing has to be reassured. Committed totally to one side in this dispute, the Government needed a fig leaf to cover the nakedness of its position. Its fig leaf was the Scarman inquiry.

When then did Grunwick cooperate with the inquiry? Because had we refused it would have been claimed that we feared an investigation of the facts. Furthermore, we felt that any inquiry must reject the principal allegations to which Apex had subjected us. And, indeed, this proved to be the case.

I was supposed to be running a "nineteenth century sweat shop" where workers had to hold up their hands to go to the lavatory. The Scarman inquiry disposed of that particular Coehel-type Big Lie. And Mr Budhia, described by the union as an "exploited young worker" sacked for joining a trade union, was found by the Scarman inquiry, "on his admission", to have "provoked the incident which brought about his dismissal", having taken the precaution beforehand of obtaining a job elsewhere. So much for the myth of the martyr.

Perhaps the worst aspect of the Scarman report is the way it glosses over what it admits are serious trade union illegalities. Grunwick, it concedes, abused by the law, its adversaries did not. But, implicit is the suggestion that when the

adversaries happen to be not merely the wild and woolly fringes of political extremism but the concerted strength of the trade union movement, then resistance by an employer, no matter how well founded, is held to be an act of such extreme provocation as to excuse almost anything, however violent, that may be inflicted upon him.

Nor are the wishes of the Grunwick work force, expressed through two ballots undertaken at the instruction, but quite independently of the management, by Mori and the Gallup organizations given more than cursory consideration. The polls revealed overwhelming opposition both to union representation and to reinstatement. The report implicitly recommends that these expressed views be ignored.

The members of the Scarman inquiry are not politicians. Our interest is in the business we have built up over the years, and our responsibility is to our workers. All of us work; not only in offices, but also on the shop floor and our staff.

We needed any encouragement to fight on, it would be provided by the choice now offered: either surrender at once and reinstate the strikers, or accept further mass-picketing and a "blackade" involving the illegal cutting-off of Grunwick's gas, electricity and water.

The Scarman report admits that Grunwick has broken no law. It concedes our right to conduct our business and to choose who shall work for us. Therefore, categorically, we will not reinstate the strikers. Indeed, our existing work force would leave us if we did.

If illegal action forces the company into liquidation, so be it. But never will we submit to force and blackmail, which disgraces everything for which Britain has always stood.

It is for others to decide whether their despair is so total that they have already abandoned the country to those who will bleed it slowly to death. But I would remind Parliament, in particular, of the words of Walter Bagehot: "When great questions end, little parties begin."

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## Is science being warped by political bias?

In the past few years science has come increasingly under attack. Together with the technical advances that have been made, possible by the application of science it is a scapegoat of everything that is going wrong in the world—for the population explosion, for the exhaustion of "natural resources" and for the threat of war. For these reasons, there are repeated suggestions that the speed of scientific discovery should be slowed and scientists ought to suppress discoveries that seem capable of being used to the detriment of humanity. Indeed, scientists whose findings contradict fashionable social theories are accused of "distorting" their results from political prejudice.

This "distorting" of present attitudes to scientific endeavour was painted last night by Sir Andrew Huxley, FRS, in the opening of the British Association's annual meeting in one of the most controversial presidential addresses to that body in its hundred years' existence. The address, which included a large section on the sensitive issue of genetic differences between people, was not obvious in its title *Evidence, Chance, and Motive in Science*, which concluded by advising practising research workers, teachers, and aspiring young scientists in his audience that there are no permissible substitutes in science for evidence firmly based on experiment and observation.

Sir Andrew clearly sees this as a vital issue at a time when the scientific way of thinking has, to fight for its existence, never vigorous than it has had to do, almost since 1870. That was when the argument over evolution after the publication of Darwin's *Origin of Species* was published. He believes it is difficult now to imagine the strength of the opposition to his theory. There was strong resistance from within the ranks of biologists who were long accustomed to the idea of the fixity of species. The more public side of the debate was clearly an emotional response to the idea of divine creation theory, one that is undermined by the authority of the Bible, and indirectly, the whole basis of ethics, and the other, that it was insulting to the dignity of man to suggest not merely that he is descended from apes, but that the change inherited from apes by the process of natural selection. The importance of the debate was not so much the actual question whether evolution by natural selection had occurred, as whether an issue such as evolution should be decided on the basis of emotional and emotional argument or on actual evidence about what happened in the geological past and what is happening at the present time to modify existing species of animals and plants.

Sir Andrew had wondered what topic in the second half of the twentieth century could generate comparable emotion. He had considered extra-sensory perception, and other paranormal phenomena. If there were a well-founded claim to have gone one of these phenomena—those which, for example, not mere conjuring tricks like fork bending—onto a regular basis so that it could be produced repeatedly, and at will, Sir Andrew was sure most people would react by feeling the privacy and individuality of their own minds were threatened.

In practice another matter had come to the fore which shared many of the features of the evolution debate. This is the question of the extent to which human ability is inherited, and how great are the inherited differences of ability, between families, between social classes, and between different human populations. This debate contains both the factors that made evolution a burning question in its time: in the first place,

people feel that our ability may be undermined because the existence of substantial inherited differences would lead to unjust treatment of the less well endowed, and second that the discovery by some group that its ability is below average is damaging to its self-esteem. Public reaction has been similar to that against evolution.

When the investigations by Professor Jensen and others in the United States were brought to public notice by the publication of Professor Eysenck's book *Race, Intelligence and Education*, Sir Andrew said he was horrified by the reactions even of some of his academic colleagues: anyone who even read this book was liable to be regarded as a racist and a fascist. These reactions took him by surprise. He had supposed that educated opinion in this country had reached the level in which it could distinguish between questions of fact to be decided on evidence, and questions of the policy that should be adopted in the light of the facts.

He pointed to one big difference between the debate on the inheritance of ability and the debate over evolution. Darwin had amassed over 20 years of overwhelming body of evidence and argument which he put into *Origin of Species* and which was able to overcome public resistance to evolution theory in a few years. The question of inheritance of ability is not in a comparable position, as it is notoriously difficult to separate the genetic from the social component in the determination of any aspect of human performance. The evidence on the inheritance of ability is in a very different position. It is not even a counterforce because of the chance that the conclusion would be in conflict with the story in Genesis or with the idea of divine element in the spirit of man.

In contrast, it does seem that there is now a body of scientists who take up the equivalent of that position in relation to the heritability of human ability, who regard the assumption of "equal inherited ability" as something which does not require experimental evidence to establish it, and which it is positively wicked to question because the conclusion might disagree with their social and political preconceptions.

Attempts of this kind to subordinate scientific judgment to political ends are misguided even from a strictly practical point of view.

Another case in which Sir Andrew believed there was an attempt to make an improper use of science was the stance recently taken by the Institute of Physics in this country over treatment of the dissident scientists in the USSR. The Institute had urged the Royal Society not merely to protest to the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, but to enforce that protest by the threat of terminating their programme of exchange visits of scientists. Sir Andrew said the Royal Society declined, and he was certain they were right. The victims of oppression, not only in the USSR, Czechoslovakia, and other Iron Curtain countries but also in some South American countries and elsewhere are suffering not for their scientific opinions but for political acts unrelated to the fact that they are scientists. He said the position is totally different, for example, from what it was in the era when genetics in the USSR was dominated by Lysenko, and his followers, and the scientific career of anyone who admitted the evidence for Mendelian genetics was brought to an end.

Pearce Wright

David Barnett offers some economic advice to the Government

## What the Chancellor should do now

The August figures of unemployment at 1,635,950 demonstrate that much of the talk and euphoria about economic recovery is premature as far as whole sections of the community are concerned. From the trade union point of view, these appalling unemployment figures represent a major economic problem. The trade union agreement to restrain wages over the past two years and the cuts in living standards which that restraint implied has led to a substantial diminution of inflation. It has also meant substantial improvement in the balance of payments picture, which with the influx of North Sea oil has meant that the balance of payments constraint is at last in sight of being removed from economic management. It has also contributed substantially to the revitalization of sterling, and the withstanding of international monetary pressures.

The trade unions have also accepted and indeed have positively committed themselves to the aims of the Government's industrial strategy. We

recognize that in the long term the industrial strategy and these improvements in the economy will lead to some improvement in employment. But the scope for improvement of employment in manufacturing industry as a result of higher investment is limited. And in any case will take some time to materialize. What we need is some action now.

As the GMWU argued at their own congress and will argue again at the TUC next week, they need on the one hand measures to directly increase the level of employment through job subsidy and job creation accompanied on the other by a substantial degree of deflation in total economic policy, directed at restoring the balance of payments and thereby improving business and employment prospects.

Compared with the very constrained situation the Government found itself in 12 months ago, we can now afford to engage on a period of expansion and reverse the deflationary trends of the past two years.

In the first place, it is now clear that the public expenditure cuts proposed by the Government were in one sense too effective. Some of those cuts have already been restored by the Chancellor's statement at the time of the budget and again in July through tax concessions. But the fact of the matter remains that the public sector borrowing requirements which had been estimated at £12 billion for last year, in fact turned out to be only £7 billion. The degree to which we were ever seriously in hock therefore was exaggerated substantially at that time. As a result of that over-estimate, part of the over-estimate, part of the IMF's own limitation. But even the IMF's ceiling on public expenditure is now shown as being too high. It looks as if the actual Government deficit will be considerably short of what the IMF would itself allow. One aspect of this has been the apparent "overkill" induced by cash limits. For example, in local authorities the capital programme actually spent in 1976-77 was 25 per cent below the cash limit provided. Other programmes, particularly surprisingly enough, those related directly to industry and employment, were also underspent by 10 per cent or more.

As a result of the overall economic improvement, plus the lessening constraint on the public sector it can be estimated that action taken in autumn would leave between

£11 billion and £2 billion to spare.

It is my argument that part of that money should be spent in selective creation of jobs by restoring or new public expenditure. In particular the local authorities—particularly on housing and education—and expenditure on long-term job creation programmes in industrial training could afford to be substantially increased. It is recognized that the Government is already doing a substantial amount in the field of job creation, but we ought to see positive job creation as part of the overall industrial strategy rather than a stop-gap measure.

On the other side of the equation, there is substantial room for a cut in taxation beyond that already undertaken. Such cuts should not be on income tax, despite the overwhelming view of both the media and of orthodox economists, but on indirect taxation—principally a major cut in VAT.

Contrary to much of the current mythology, the United Kingdom is not an overtaxed country. Nor is it even overtaxed in terms of income tax. But while the level of indirect taxation may be a slightly lower proportion than in other countries, it is also somewhat even less progressive in its impact than in some other countries. A cut in VAT would be preferable to a cut in income tax for a number of reasons: Firstly, because it would be far quicker in its impact on economic activity. Action on VAT could be taken immediately, whereas action on income tax would require administrative and parliamentary reasons, almost certainly have to be delayed until the budget. Lower prices rather than higher net incomes will have a more rapid effect on the expenditure of savings.

Secondly, the cut in VAT will help the lower paid differentially, and therefore make a major contribution towards the avoidance of an explosion in nominal wages.

Thirdly, it would benefit substantially the unemployed, pensioners, one-parent families and those on very low incomes who benefit not at all from a cut in income tax.

Lastly, the calculations made by economists would show that it actually has a slightly less long term effect on the public sector borrowing requirement than a cut in income tax.

It is for that reason that I would like to see side by side with increased public expenditure directed at employment and industrial regeneration, a major cut in VAT.

The cut in VAT would lead to cuts in prices, an increased demand in the shops and hence an increase in job opportunities.

It will of course be argued that a cut in VAT in certain

sectors will lead to a surge in imports. I do not ignore that possibility. I would point out, however, that a temporary increase in imports is by no means as damaging as in the case in the past, as a result of the North Sea Oil benefit.

Nevertheless, I do wish to see this new demand directed primarily to British produced goods. Otherwise the effect on jobs is obviously that much less. The whole function of the industrial strategy is to achieve a substantial shift into import substitution.

My union and the TUC have also argued that side by side with measures to promote investment and employment under the industrial strategy, a positive planning approach has to be taken towards trade itself. If, therefore, a major surge in imports seemed likely in a particular sector as a result of the VAT cut induced increase in demand, then I would not hesitate to advocate selective import controls in that area.

The major point remains that government policy must take a new direction. At present it is estimated that growth will only be 1½ per cent during 1977. That rate must be rapidly improved. That means refutation of demand, and creation of employment.

The author is general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers Union.

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## IT IS BETTER TO LOOK FOR TRUTH

In his presidential address to the British Association last night, Sir Andrew Huxley, criticised the unscientific response of some scientists and of a wider public to theories of "the inherited differences of ability between families, between social classes and between different human populations". It is easy to understand this response. Such theories have become associated with a belief in the inherent inferiority of the black races and with the assumption that they will not be able to compete on equal terms with white people, except in purely physical pursuits. These doctrines have therefore been seen as providing the intellectual justification for a policy of neglect that would be far from benign, and even for active discrimination. Consequently many people of goodwill have reacted instinctively against them.

But Sir Andrew is quite right to insist that the reaction on grounds of principle and of the practical consequences, as a matter of principle it is always wrong to impede scientific inquiry and to stifle scientific discussion—the two naturally go together—because of fear of the findings. It is one of the foundations of the scientific process that its own sake and it would be a fallacy to assume that social policy would be more beneficial if it was formed on an incomplete knowledge of the facts rather than on a deeper understanding of them that can be obtained. Whether it can in this particular instance must be open to doubt. It is notoriously difficult to distinguish between hereditary and

environmental influences and therefore to subject theories in this field to appropriately rigorous scientific analysis. That is a warning against leaping to conclusions on the basis of inadequate evidence, not against seeking to acquire more satisfactory evidence.

The practical consequences of attempting to muffle this debate will be precisely the contrary to what many well-intentioned people suppose. It would not put a stop to much popular speculation on the relative abilities of those from different backgrounds, most especially to those different races. It would mean instead that certain assumptions, often rather crude assumptions, were not subjected to any searching examination. Right or wrong, they would remain unchallenged except by the silent distaste of liberal opinion. That distaste has by itself proved of little consequence in racial matters. It may shame some, but much popular resentment has been excited in the past by the suspicion that facts of consequence for race relations have been suppressed by a conspiracy of silence. To feed such suspicions is more dangerous to race relations than to risk the propagation of facts that might seem to be embarrassing.

Just how embarrassing to race relations any new facts in this controversy might prove to be may well be questioned. This is partly because a sharp distinction must be drawn as Sir Andrew put it "between questions of fact, to be decided on evidence, and questions of the policy that should be adopted in the light of the facts". It is also partly because it is inconceivable that it should ever become

the general conclusion that only hereditary conditions behaviour. Even if it is true, which is certainly not settled, and heredity largely determines personal character and ability, common observation shows that the use made of inherited abilities and the expression given to personal characteristics can be much influenced by social pressures. The expectation of the group often have much to do with individual conduct. The essence of the debate is therefore the relative weight to be given to hereditary and environmental factors.

Social policy is not of necessity dictated by the answer. If it were accepted that heredity is predominant there could be three separate conclusions. One would be that this made positive social policies, designed to help the least favoured in the community, a waste of time because they were a form of social engineering doomed to failure. Another would be that such policies were all the more necessary in order to compensate for inherent inequalities. The third possible response would be to say that while there would be a natural tendency for the most well endowed to rise to the top in society there would be many exceptions to this trend. Therefore there would always be a ability lower down the scale and positive efforts should be made so that full use can be made of their capacities—which is quite distinct from the egalitarian argument. Scientists do not by their discoveries absolve the rest of us from the responsibility of determining social policy. By the same token we should not be afraid that any discovery of theirs will leave us no scope for doing so.

## SCARMAN DOES NOT LEAD TO SETTLEMENT

Union and management in the Grunwick affair are as far apart as ever after taking note of the Scarman report. The union announced on Tuesday that it would accept reinstatement of its members on strike over a period, rather than instantly, and offered a written confirmation (unenforceable) of its repeated disclaimers of any intention to seek a closed shop at Grunwick. Yesterday the company said that it was ready to allow any employee with a grievance to be represented by union negotiators, if he or she wished. (A Scarman recommendation that had been accepted before it was made, and repeated its absolute opposition to the reinstatement of the strikers on any terms. The dispute is in "great danger of returning to displays of strength, and probably of violence, on the streets".)

The four formal recommendations of Lord Scarman's court of inquiry had an odd curiosity, almost naive, at following the analysis that it made. Three of them urged conciliatory gestures on the company, while no such gestures were proposed for the unions. Yet the report itself clearly implied that APEX, the union directly involved, had been at fault in calling for mass pickets which should have been foreseen as likely to lead to breaches of the peace by extremists. A resumption of mass picketing now would involve exactly the same dangers, all the more obvious in the light of experience. There has been much talk in this dispute about the distinction between the letter and the spirit of the law: the unions should note that although the Scarman report faltered and failed to spell it out in the letter, in spirit it laid on them the obligation to be reasonable and moderate. It would not be

moderate to stage another opportunity for members of the far left to throw bottles at the police and confirm the repellent impression of trade union tactics that has been given to the Grunwick workers.

The problem of the letter and the spirit of the law, and the ambiguous position within the law of a court of inquiry like Lord Scarman's, occupies much of the company's attention in its reply. Just as the unions claim that the court's findings have some kind of morally binding power, Grunwick maintains that since they have none, they need not be considered seriously even as advice. In that regard, of course, but until the report goes astray in its particular recommendations it does manage to keep its fundamental limitations in view, and the advice it offers is far from negligible. Less intransigent and punctiliousness on both sides would have prevented the growth into a national issue of a dispute which has done immense harm to both.

But advice is something to be accepted or rejected, and Mr Ward is fully within his rights in rejecting Lord Scarman's. Observers may hold when they see someone taking advantage of the letter of the law to frustrate what they regard subjectively as its spirit, but the letter of the law is what the law is, while the spirit is no more than a matter of opinion. There may be several legitimate views about the wisdom of Mr Ward's conduct at earlier stages of the dispute, but at this point it is difficult to dissent from his view that it would be impossible to reinstate the whole body of the strikers. The workers who have run the gauntlet of abuse and threats for a year could not be asked to accept it.

Mr Bhudia, who on his own admission provoked the incident that led to his own dismissal, Mrs Desai, who asked for her cards herself, and the individuals who broke windows in a violent scene at the factory, have no acceptable claim to reinstatement. The Employment Protection Act denies the firm the option of reinstating some strikers and refusing to take others back, without laying itself open to claims for unfair dismissal. Those provisions, part of the law that the unions wrote in 1974 and 1975 an intended to prevent victimization of individuals, has rebounded in this case and in effect victimized the main body of the strikers.

Grunwick's reply notes, as it well may, that the Scarman report almost completely discounts the fables about bad working conditions in the factory that have been put about, by Mr Roy Grantham himself, among others. The terms of some of these attacks would have been defamatory except in the context of a trade dispute, and it would have been no defence to say that they would not have been made if the speakers had been allowed to examine the laboratories for themselves. There is no reason why untruths should have special privilege in this context. Indeed, the immunity of unions from actions for defamation (another product of the attempt to put trade disputes outside the law) was another factor that helped to build up the dispute into a national issue, with such mischievous effects, not only for Grunwick but far more for the whole trade union movement, which will not easily recover the respect it has already lost by pursuing its cause in this case beyond all moderation and reason.

## Army's task in Ulster

From Mr C. E. M. Heywood  
Sir, May I, through a little late, offer some thoughts on Mr R. P. O'Neill's article on the army in Ulster (August 15)?

I sympathize with the army's impossible position and hold no brief for any of the IRA or loyalist, but the core of the matter, I would suggest, is that the conditions which generated and laterally have stimulated the IRA (at any rate the Provisionals), and so occasioned the army's presence in Ulster, should never have been allowed by British Governments, and should be ended.

Mr O'Neill referred to problems disappearing when grievances are removed. In Ulster grievances remain, so the problem remains, and it will do so until the grievances are removed. The grievances, it is surely true to say, are largely legitimate, being rooted in centuries of injustice towards the Irish by the English, and since the formation of the Free State, by (the Ulster) decades of discrimination against the Catholic minority by the Protestant hierarchy and, by and large, their supporters.

Leaving aside the question of ending partition and sticking to the Ulster situation, might not the Provisionals be entitled to relative insignificance, if the Protestant hierarchy treated the Catholics entirely as equal citizens, with complete equal rights, opportunities and so on? The Protestants are treated in Eire and with full and fair power-sharing? The main current local reason for the Provisionals and their local support could then largely disappear.

How can one expect the violence ever to end except perhaps intermittently, until this does happen, and while leaders like Rev

Colour in the census

From Ms A. Ruff  
Sir, Mr Ivor Frank's dilemma (letter, August 23) in not knowing which box to tick as he is neither black nor white is a problem which the British government may be about to create and something which both Jean Genet in his play *The Blacks* and the South African government have devoted considerable attention to. Genet writes "One evening an actor asked me to write a play for an all-black cast. But what exactly is a black? First of all what's his colour?" The South African government has had to devise several categories—Bantu, Asian, Coloured, White. (Japanese are considered to be honorary Whites.)

Are Mr Andrew Young or Miss Angela Davis as white as the black? Often as I am used to the appearance of Africans, I feel that both Mr Young and Miss Davis are whites masquerading as blacks which is unfair as they cannot help their looks. Indeed as intermingling continues and increases I am told that anthropologists are no longer certain of the three major categories into which they once divided human beings, the Caucasian, Mongol and Negro races. If the census

takers persist in wanting to know this detail I suggest that the best thing to do is to tick as many boxes as possible to provide a colour chart on each form, similar to those illustrating various shades of black, brown and white (pink, and we could tick the most appropriate colour).

Or alternatively they could ask people like Mr Frank whether they "feel" black or white. Or alternatively still they could leave matters as they now stand and continue to divide the population into the only real two races which inhabit the earth, the male and the female.

Yours faithfully,  
A. RUFF,  
30 Barn Way,  
Wembley Park,  
Middlesex.  
August 24.

## Strikes and society

From Mr J. D. Sutherland  
Sir, It is sad that so many people think, like Mr Boddie (August 25) that our problems can be solved in the courts.

An American author has just castigated British motorists as among the least disciplined in the world, with their suicidal refusal to put their headlights on until the last possible moment. This lack of discipline is seen also in our attitude to work, because here again we fail utterly to see what lies ahead. How can any cure cure a disease as deep seated as this?

Yours sincerely,  
J. D. SUTHERLAND,  
41 Westfield Way,  
Kirkella,  
North Humberdale,  
August 25.

## Violence at the Notting Hill carnival

From Mrs M. Nelson-Payne

Sir, It was deeply upsetting to read and hear the reaction of the media to the two day Notting Hill carnival.

Why was it that the only pictures put out of the festivities were the violent ones taken on the last day, during a one hour period when a minority of rioting youths caused an affray which was quickly dealt with by the police.

I have lived here for 10 years, and as do most other members of the community, get on very well with my black neighbours and we live in peaceful harmony—perhaps with the exception of a certain "element".

The youth of today are all going through a violent time with so little work to be had for white or black, and I do not see the issue as a racistist one, but one based on our economic situation.

I gave a grandstand view of the carnival which passes underneath my first floor windows, and with nearly a quarter of a million people dancing past to the music of the steel bands, it was very apparent that everyone of them was having a very good time, and there was no thought of aggression or violence.

For the sake of the majority I would ask it to be stressed that this was a 95 per cent peaceful and happy carnival, and as a resident of the area to beg that the Notting Hill carnival be allowed to continue.

The police and the stewards deserve our thanks too for helping to make the occasion as peaceful as it could be with such a multitude of people.

Don't stop the carnival.  
Yours faithfully,  
M. NELSON-PAYNE,  
15 Advance House,  
109 Brookside Grove, W11.  
August 30.

From Mr K. J. Woffenden

Sir, One aspect of the Notting Hill carnival which has received little attention is yet in the massive Socialist Worker presence at an allegedly "cultural" event.

During Monday afternoon I was amazed and saddened by the saturation of the entire carnival area by (white) Socialist Workers, intent on propagating their message of hate amongst a largely disinterested public. Both their propaganda and their behaviour was provocative in the extreme: groups of "Workers" would surround lone policemen standing on duty and hold up papers declaring "police are the real muggers". One float in the procession contained Socialist Worker "freedom fighters" in paramilitary dress

and carrying guns, and it was covered with inflammatory slogans.

If carnival organizers are genuine in their admiration for the conduct of the police last weekend, and desire to enlist police support to eliminate the black thugs who threaten future carnivals, perhaps they will in future also eliminate the participation of political "thugs" committed to smashing the forces of law and order, whose presence can only poison the atmosphere of a basically peace-loving event.

Yours faithfully,  
K. J. WOFFENDEN,  
28A Wycombe Gardens,  
Golders Green, NW11.  
August 30.

From Miss Kathleen Rowland

Sir, I live in the area encircled by the Notting Hill carnival processions, and I am a Christian, so I had a particular interest in the efforts of churches to ensure that this year's goodwill should prevail.

Cardinal Hume gave the lead with prayers in Westminster Cathedral and visits to the district; a West Indian man spoke on the radio, and my own parish priest preached eloquently at Mass for tolerance and sympathy with homeless immigrants.

None of the youths who ran amok heeded these pleas, supposing they even heard them. The moral point now, however, is surely that if one wills the end one also wills the means.

To ensure peace in city streets one does what is possible to take advance avoiding action to prevent violence; that is, in this case, one holds a carnival in Kensington's parks not in Kensington's streets.

If this avoiding action is not taken—admittedly not a perfect solution—but the best available—then one knowingly puts other people at risk for the sake of one's own pleasure. Would moralists condone that?

Yours faithfully,  
KATHLEEN ROWLAND,  
11 Cheseprow Villas, W11.  
August 30.

From Miss Jill Neville

Sir, The press, the TV and the radio have certainly done an amazingly good job at making sure there would be violence at this year's carnival. Thousands upon thousands of pounds have obviously been invested on a nationwide publicity campaign to ensure crime in Notting Hill on Monday. All those inflammatory headlines from "Notting Hill breeds ghastly" to "Plea for carnival calm" were perfectly tailored to rouse every apathetic

## National Front manifesto: effect on the young

From Mrs J. Fearn

Sir, With reference to the appeal for National Front literature, I have for teenagers, particularly boys, I think perhaps I can throw a glimmer of light.

My son, now 22, felt at the age of 16 and 17 that the NF was the only party holding out some hope for England and the English. He disenchanted with the policies of the Left who he felt soft-hearted those with no desire to work and the coloured people—brought up to disagree with colour prejudice, working in close quarters with a certain section of the coloured community changed his outlook completely. The Conservatives left an appeal as he felt they were ineffective, trying to please all voters.

He desperately wanted to be proud of England and identify with a party that was 100 per cent for the English. He felt "The Front" could help the English people get their rights and bring back law and order. Having fallen for some of the media propaganda, he considered that returning all coloureds home to their land of origin would ameliorate our economic and labour problems. He also believed the NF was the only party that would put the economic problems of the world were caused by high financiers who wished to make countries indebted to them, and would then dictate their terms, thus controlling the world.

When NF literature and members started coming to the door and he expressed his intention to join the party I became alarmed. I argued that all their literature bore a resemblance to the propaganda put out by the Nazis before the war. Eventually he agreed that we should obtain the party manifestos of all the parties, NF, Labour, Conservative and Communist, not forgetting Liberal. We went through them word for word together, comparing every possible with past and present performance.

It was an enlightening experience, but one of the things that became forcibly clear was that the colour problem was being used by the NF to gain a platform, that anyone disagreeing with their policies and ideas would receive the same rough treatment, and although not directly stated, the underlying current was that once in it would be extremely difficult to get them out because they would take over everything, including the banks, as this was the only way to ensure their policies were carried out.

We asked for the party membership rules on many occasions; they were always excuses, but we never

received a copy. (The natural conclusion was "what have they to hide?") I instilled in my son that to join the party without knowing what he was committing himself was utter folly. They wanted him to enter a local talent contest in a coloured area, so that when he lost, which was almost a foregone conclusion, they could start a boo-hoo about colour prejudice against the whites.

He no longer supports the NF but is still looking for a party that can act with firmness, that says "work or starve" to all but the old and sick, and can give him a country and people of which he can feel proud.

There is a new breed of voter coming up, they are fed up with being taxed to the hilt to pay for those they consider a load on their backs, and their country degenerated at home and abroad and having seen permissive politics and morals at work they are turning against this very permissiveness, and demanding a return to a country and people of whom they can be proud to be a part and a new party with the guts to do it.

As a rider, I would add that my son is hourly paid, state educated, and a product of post-war education and thinking—one of many who are looking in their teens to the extreme Right or Left.

Yours faithfully,  
J. FEARN,  
Tachbrook Road,  
Feltham,  
Middlesex.  
August 30.

From Mr Oliver Mason

Sir, I have read Mr Ian Bradley's article about Mr Tyndall and the National Front (The Times, August 30) with great interest, but I am hardly aware of the statement in your leading article in the same issue that you have "kept your side of the bargain" and "allowed the National Front to state its policies".

Consider the following passages in Mr Bradley's article: "If there are still anti-semitic traces in Tyndall's thought, he seems not to have let them intrude, at least publicly, into the policy of the National Front." His "ideal society" "is a sounds remarkably similar to Hitler's." The Front is trying hard to shed its Nazi image and appear as a respectable contender... its appeal for most of its supporters still seems to be based on racial hatred... time alone will test the validity of his promise.

You might have done better, Sir,

## Aims of Treaty of Rome

From Mr Charles Harris

Sir, May one of Neil Marten's own electors reply to his curious letter of August 23?

Mr Marten says that the concept of the Treaty of Rome is outdated. The stated objects of that treaty (for some reason strikingly public) are the constant improvement of the living and working conditions, and the preservation and strengthening of the peace and liberty of the peoples of Europe. This is envisaged by common commercial policies, "closer union" amongst peoples, and a pooling of national resources. Do Europe's opponents say that these concepts are outdated?

Some of the institutions can certainly be criticized, but hardly for being outdated, more justly for being insufficiently developed. Mr Marten, a member of England's directly elected Parliament for approaching 20 years, asks

what purpose is to be served by a directly elected European Parliament since elections do not always, as in Russia, produce democratic bodies. Well, Russia's parliaments, which do not do justice, but that is no argument for denying Europe its courts.

The fact is that close to 70 per cent of the people of the United Kingdom want direct elections (Gallup's April poll for the Commission). In the 20th century only a Parliament with a vote behind it can have the vigour and confidence to conquer wider fields and win larger influence. It is this factor which makes for anxiety about elections amongst Europe's critics, not any fear of more national bickering.

If the opponents of European unity dislike the present institutions, they should not seek to prevent their modification, but to improve them. Rather, should they agree with Fox, who said of England two centuries ago, "... so defective,

hooligan in the land to vent the pent-up violence of his frustrations on this great once-a-year event for the West Indian population. For 95 per cent of the time people who hadn't been frightened off enjoyed themselves hugely—ignoring the war cries of the press!

It seems that England has become such a sombre, masculinist country that the very idea of an enormous carnival with dozens of bands and street dancing has no general interest whatsoever except for the blood that might be persuaded to flow and spill it all.

Last month in Rome I was at the Trastevere carnival. Many more pickpockets and fights occurred; but the main point of it all—the act of celebration in a life consisting mainly of worry and hard work—remained unimpaired by any gloating publicity. Poor unmythical England, all it can now do is prevent people leaving for their annual holidays and spoil our one and only carnival.

Sincerely,  
JILL NEVILLE,  
24 Maids Avenue, W2.  
August 30.

From the Rev J. Kenneth Lawton

Sir, The violence associated with the Notting Hill carnival was expected to why was it not prevented or, at least, contained more effectively? Given the large crowds, a highly charged emotional atmosphere and the availability of alcohol some violence is predictable. Add a sense of social deprivation and frustration, youth as a "lost generation" and extensive media coverage the result becomes inevitable.

Let us create an alcohol-free zone for next year's carnival. If we begin by eliminating alcohol from this volatile brew the result may be less explosive. Any loss of revenue should be small in comparison with the overall saving—both social and economic.

Yours, etc,  
KENNETH LAWTON,  
General Secretary,  
The Temperance Council of the Christian Churches,  
4 Southampton Row, WC1.  
August 30.

From Mrs J. H. Huntsman

Sir, As a householder in Notting Hill, I do wish to say how much I admire the police for containing the violence as they did this weekend, and again, at considerable cost to themselves.

Yours faithfully,  
ANNE HUNTSMAN,  
22 Ladbroke Grove, W11.  
August 30.

to let Mr Tyndall condemn himself. By applying such a heavy gloss to his views you have insulted the intelligence of your readers and displayed a lack of integrity.

Yours faithfully,  
OLIVER MASON,  
Hock Hill,  
Cousley Wood,  
Wadhurst,  
East Sussex.  
August 30.

From Mr Graham Norwood

Sir, Your newspaper—the subject of much personal criticism from the Labour Party of which I am a member—has this time gone too far in its alleged defence of freedom and democracy.

In 1939 our society saw fit to declare war on fascism and the criminal bigotry of Nazi Germany. In recent weeks we have seen police protection and public expenditure given to the National Front. Now, our newspapers are giving them platforms from which to launch their racial policies.

It is to this country's discredit that it did not legislate after the war to prevent the rise of fascism after the German experience. It is now to our shame that some elements—namely the police and our press—try to make the NF respectable by offering them opportunities to spread their hate. Germany has learned. We, apparently, have not.

Yours sincerely,  
GRAHAM NORWOOD,  
12 St Levan Road,  
Stoke,  
Plymouth.  
August 30.

From Mr Herman Scott

Sir, We must be grateful for The Times for allowing Mr Tyndall a platform to voice his terrifying ideas.

Of all his opinions, two stand out to be most symptomatic and revealing: one is his admiration for the leaders of Iran, Singapore and Chile; the other is his wish to recreate the Commonwealth and British Empire, presumably before the forced repatriation of two million coloured people to the former colonies.

Mr Tyndall's stated ideas show in no uncertain manner how Britain can be destroyed, both from within and without.

Yours faithfully,  
HERMAN SCOTT,  
151 North End House,  
Pitzjames Avenue, W14.  
August 30.

so inadequate is the present practice, at least of the elective franchise, that no impression of national calamity, no conviction of ministerial error, no abhorrence of disastrous war, is sufficient to stand against the influence which grows and stifles the popular vote.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES HARRIS,  
The Manor,  
Westcott Barton,  
Oxfordshire.  
August 24.

## Candidates deposit

From Sir Walter Howard  
Sir, In order to discourage the lunatic fringe, is it not time to raise the deposit required for a parliamentary candidate to £500?

Yours faithfully,  
WALTER HOWARD,  
Barford,  
near Warwick.

## Videotape evidence at trial

From Dr G. A. Low-Beeer

Sir, I must express my deep disquiet about the showing of the McShane videotape on Yorkshire television. The case was in many respects unique as the jury had to find on the motives of Mrs McShane's actions, namely whether there was any intention of getting her mother to commit suicide.

As expert witnesses for the defence I was struck by two contradictory strands of evidence. The first, and perhaps the most damaging, was the videotape, a transcript of which I studied carefully. However, even there, with one or two exceptions, one is struck by the fact that the suspect of suicide had obviously been discussed many times previously and that in the end Mrs Mort was no more suicidal than in the beginning. On balance, however, the videotape in itself would favour a verdict of guilty.

Viewed as a whole, however, there is considerable doubt whether this was the correct verdict. Suicide had been a common topic of discussion between mother and daughter since Mrs McShane's youth. On frequent occasions when suicide was threatened, Mrs McShane responded by challenging her to do it, a response which can be extremely successful and is used by psychiatrists. The fact is that Mrs Mort never attempted suicide but she found comfort in having the means of ending her life at her immediate disposal.

Whether it was wise of Mrs McShane to continue with the method she had for decades used, when her mother was in a nursing home, is another matter. Eventually the jury must have considered the videotape and by the pecuniary aspect of the case, but even this had doubtful force since her expectations were many times less than her liabilities.

The jury therefore decided on good but to my mind not wholly convincing evidence that Mrs McShane was guilty. The programme, however, did not, it seems, deem it necessary to examine the complexities of the case which to my mind it had a duty to do. The verdict of guilty, I believe, was a sufficient reason to proceed with a showing of the videotape without Mrs McShane's knowledge and the courtesies and rights to which an ordinary citizen is entitled were disregarded. This was stated by the producer during a television interview last night. I must say that this is an appalling admission which needs the most rigorous examination.

As for the high-minded claim that this programme would claim to be a deterrent, I consider that this snuck of hypocrisy cloaking sensationalism. Was Mrs McShane ever informed that this would be one of the intentions of the programme? The offence is an infrequent one and the programme is hardly justified on the grounds that it dealt with a problem of great social importance. Potential perpetrators will merely make certain that they do not commit this crime in a well staffed old people's home.

Far from being a breath of fresh air, this television "break-in" of peoples' rights, sensibilities and tragic circumstances for the sake of new forms of entertainment.

Yours truly,  
G. A. LOW-BEEER,  
Consultant Psychiatrist,  
Widley House, 100, St. John's Road,  
Dulwich Common, SE21.  
August 29.

## Recognition of Vatican

From the Bishop of Southwark  
Sir, I hope that official diplomatic status will be given to the representative of the Vatican in this country. If we have a properly constituted Ministry in Rome, there should be reciprocal arrangements in Britain. In pre-revolutionary days, I believe, I am expressing a view that would be welcomed by Christians of most persuasions, even though the Roman Catholic Church might feel that it is best for others to draw the attention of the Foreign Office to the matter.

Yours faithfully,  
B. MERVYN SOUTHWARK,  
Bishop's House,  
38 Tooting Bec Gardens,  
Streatham, SW16.  
August 30.

Smuggled pets

From Miss G. E. Bullent  
Sir, Mrs Miller's suggestion (August 23) that "instantaneous destruction" of a smuggled pet animal would deter would be law breakers seems on the face of it to provide the ultimate deterrent in keeping rabbits from Britain. But I, as a responsible citizen, have been requested by the government in their TV information films to report any suspicious of animal smuggling. I am afraid if my actions in so doing are going to result in a dead animal then I shall have to think twice about cooperating.

Yours faithfully,  
G. E. BULLENT,  
22 Blenheim Road, NW8.

A naval posting

From Mr Kevin Koolme  
Sir, Whilst I was delighted to read (August 23), and I am sure were his colleagues, that Capt. Nelson, RN, received his posting to MOD(P) with DGW(N), DSWP(N) at ASWE as D/DSWP(N), August 15, one can but wonder whether he has arrived there yet or knows what his job will be. Is it to confuse the enemy or do other walks of life abbreviate in this seemingly crazy way?

Yours faithfully,  
KEVIN KOOLME,  
3 Theford Road,  
New Malden,  
Surrey.  
August 25.







LAING

LOCAL  
OR NATIONAL  
CONSTRUCTION SERVICETHE TIMES  
BUSINESS NEWS

NCR

Computers & Terminals  
NCR Limited, 206 Marylebone Road, London NW1Leading insurance groups  
boost CBI influence by  
joining membership revival

By Monica Corbin

Industrial Correspondent

Thirty leading insurance companies and organizations have joined the Confederation of British Industry, now experiencing a significant revival in membership.

The decision to participate in the CBI is an important one, since the organization has been enlarging its sphere of influence and its role in the economy.

The CBI's revival is a result of a number of factors, including the fact that it has been able to attract new members and to increase its resources.

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Mr. Methven: Businessmen like his style

are well advanced for the organization's first annual conference at Brighton in November.

A big attendance now seems assured, and resolutions are being invited from standing committees, regional councils and trade associations to ensure wide-ranging debates.

Industrial democracy, pay, and the economy are bound to be among the topics, together with the CBI's policy document Road to Recovery.

Mr. Methven has patiently withstood some good-natured ribbing over the idea of staging an annual conference to parallel the TUC's heavily reported congress in the autumn. But the evidence is that support for the experiment has grown strongly.

After the CBI's internal troubles several years back, businessmen—both directors and top managers—feel the CBI's influence has begun to grow more strongly lately in Whitehall and its public statements are carrying some extra weight.

Reorganization within the CBI and the development of its research capability has brought a perceptible change among its critics. For example, companies which once felt they were best at handling their own Whitehall representations are finding that CBI involvement in their problems can give them more than just a courteous hearing.

There has been an explosion of working in the field of employee communications, where the CBI is offering help and advice. Also, the issue of industrial democracy, with the confederation standing firm for alternative ideas, has rallied members behind the leadership.

The more immediate consideration for the board is another brief by the Justice Department which suggested that the main airlines cannot make profits on the low fares that they have announced.

The department said the airlines aimed to hold prices down solely to force Laker Airways out of business and, once this had been achieved, to raise fares once again.

Mr. Freddy Laker, who was in Washington last week and was a member of the Civil Aeronautics Board, no doubt hopes that the board will accept the Justice Department's views and so decide against the low fares proposed by the big airlines.

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Finland  
follows trend  
with 3.1pc  
devaluation

By Caroline Atkinson

Finland's mark devalued by 3.1 per cent against a basket of currencies yesterday in the latest of the present spate of currency adjustments which has followed the Swedish abandonment of the European currency snake last weekend.

The move had been foretold by statements from the Prime Minister, that he was seeking agreement with unions and employers on a new rate for the currency.

By the time the decision was announced at 4.20 pm, many of the European foreign exchange markets had closed. So market reaction cannot yet be gauged.

However, a larger movement had been widely expected after the 10 per cent Swedish devaluation, and 5 per cent devaluation of the Danish and Norwegian crowns.

The close ties between the Scandinavian economies mean that their exchange rates tend to move together.

Finland's decision to limit its devaluation to 3 per cent was influenced by opposition from the Communists in the cabinet, and from unions, to a downward movement in the currency which would push up prices.

In April the Finnish mark was devalued by 5.7 per cent against a basket of currencies. Yesterday's devaluation was part of a number of measures including a 1 per cent cut in bank rate to 8.25 per cent, and government pledges to cut or abolish taxes on electricity used by industry and to tighten price controls.

Foreign exchange markets continued to be nervous yesterday in the wake of the Scandinavian devaluations, although conditions were a little quieter than on Tuesday. The three chief Scandinavian currencies all lost ground against the Deutsche mark in afternoon trading in Frankfurt.

The Danish crown came under the most pressure, and there is some feeling that its 5 per cent devaluation within the snake was too small.

Dealers are predicting that other weak currencies may follow the Scandinavians downward. The chief candidates for devaluation are the Belgian franc and the Austrian schilling. These are likely to come under increasing pressure in the next few days.

The Spanish and Portuguese currencies have already been forced downward by their foreign trade deficits.

The French franc is also tipped to come down against the strong currencies, and may also lose ground against the dollar over the rest of the year.

There was, however, little change in the French mark rate (to 9.5 per cent), which was announced yesterday as part of a package of measures.

Sterling continued to be in strong demand on the exchanges yesterday, gaining 6 points against the dollar to close at \$1.7429. This is the highest rate against the United States currency for nearly a year.

Its effective rate index was unchanged from the high of 62.3 reached on Tuesday, with the Bank of England intervening to hold the rate down.

The dollar was marked down against most European currencies in the afternoon as dollars were sold from New York. It closed at 131.25 against the Deutsche mark.

Turkey is another country with balance of payments problems which are expected to lead soon to a devaluation.

Failure of world trade to expand rapidly this year, and the very uneven distribution of the payments deficits which are the counterpart of the Opec surplus, has contributed to the upheavals on currency markets this year.

GEC wins £13m deal  
GEC Telecommunications has won export orders worth nearly £13m for transmission systems in Nigeria. The company completed the £10m Nigerian telecommunications transmission network in 1975 and since then has won Nigerian orders worth £28m.Nigeria seeks \$1,000 loan in Euromarkets  
By Ronald Puller  
Banking Correspondent  
Nigeria is making its first entry into the Euromarkets for a loan of \$1,000m (about £574.5m). The loan is for seven years and will carry a spread of 1 per cent over the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate for the whole period.

Reflecting the size of the loan, three co-lead managers have been appointed: Chase Manhattan Limited, Deutsche Bank and Morgan Guaranty, with Chase acting as co-ordinator.

In coming to the Euromarkets, Nigeria is joining the growing list of oil-rich countries whose ambitious industrialization plans have run somewhat ahead of their oil revenues, which have been depressed over the past year as a result of the drop in world demand.

Iran has developed into a heavy borrower over the past 18 months, with two loans totalling \$2,200m since last October, and earlier this year Qatar, too, arranged its maiden Euroloan.

As with Venezuela, Nigeria will use the money to finance the development of its infrastructure.

Citibank inquiry into \$3m 'fraud'  
Rome, Aug. 31.—Citibank said today that it was investigating a possible fraud of up to \$3m (about £1.7m), involving its Rome branch.

A spokesman for the New York bank said that the amount that might be recovered could not be determined until after completion of the investigation. He declined to provide any details on how the alleged fraud was carried out.

But the president of the small Garco e Porpora Bank of Palermo, near Naples, told reporters that one of the men involved was a small-account holder who suddenly began transferring huge sums of money with guaranteed cashier's cheques from Citibank.

It was believed that many of the cashier's cheques were not covered by funds at Citibank's Rome Branch, 87 Ardele de Pascale, the bank's president, said.

Four private companies were named by the Turin newspaper La Stampa as being connected with the investigation.—Reuter.

Texaco to develop Tartan oilfield  
in North Sea at cost of £250m

By Roger Vielvoys

Texaco is to spend around £250m on developing the Tartan oilfield, about 115 miles north-east of Aberdeen. The company announced yesterday that it expects production to begin in late 1979 or early 1980, and at peak rates it would be able to produce 75,000 barrels of oil a day.

By North Sea standards the field is relatively small; but the single four-legged steel production platform needed to operate the field could provide welcome work for the British platform-building industry.

Texaco has received tenders for the work from seven contractors, four British and three European, and is planning to place the order within four to six weeks.

Development plans for the field are still subject to approval by the Department of Energy.

Texaco said yesterday that several methods of bringing the crude ashore are under study. Tartan is less than 20 miles from the Piper field and could be linked with the Occidental Group's pipeline to the Orkney Islands.

Besides the 75,000 barrels a day of crude oil, Tartan will also produce 12,000 barrels a day of natural gas liquids that will be transported with the oil.

There are also quantities of dry gas, and Texaco has an option to share in a spur line that will be built to transport gas from the Piper field to the Frigg gas pipeline 35 miles to the east.

Texaco said the steel jacket for the platform will be set in 465ft of water. It will be capable of accommodating 30 production wells to be drilled by a single rig. The complete facility, including pipelines, will weigh about 32,000 tons.

Tartan was first discovered by Texaco in December 1974. Since then the company has drilled eight wells to delineate the extent of the field. It has two other prospective oil discoveries close by—in blocks 14/20 and 15/23, but further drilling will be required before any development decisions are taken there.

A pact that would give the British National Oil Corporation 51 per cent participation in Tartan has already been agreed in anticipation of the field emerging as a commercial field.

Laing Offshore, of Graythorpe, and Redpath Dorman Long of Melhill—neither of which have any work in hand have both bid for the jacket work in competition with Highland Fabricators of Nigg Bay and McDermott of Ardeer who have work in hand. Two Dutch companies and a French concern have also bid.

The National Iranian Oil Company announced in Teheran yesterday that it had set a target of 1.4 million barrels a day for its direct exports this year, compared with just over a million barrels daily last year.

Increasing overseas sales in a depressed crude oil market will be extremely difficult without offering discounts that could offend some of Iran's partners in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), one oil industry source said yesterday.

National Iranian's announcement comes after the failure of strenuous efforts by Iran to stem falling oil exports by concluding barter deals with the suppliers of capital goods being imported.

Iran had been hoping to pay in oil for a large proportion of two nuclear power stations ordered from France at a cost of about £1,140m. But a barter deal has fallen through because of the difficulties of deciding the likely price of oil during the eight years it will take to build and commission the power plants.

Negotiations are still in progress on bartering oil for American arms and aircraft, but again these have run into problems over fixing prices.

The Algerian-American contract—the so-called Escogas contract—failed because of the inability of the participating utilities to obtain the necessary approval of United States agencies for the project.

Under the terms of the latest deal, two of the ships which were destined for the Escogas contract have been switched to the Indonesian route and only one of the original Escogas ships will now be built.

The first of the ships on the Indonesia-Japan route is already in service and the other vessel is scheduled to enter service at three-monthly intervals.

Revised arrangements involving the ownership of the vessels agreed earlier this year led to subsidiaries of GD assuming the contractual ownership of the vessels, which are then being chartered to another American company, Energy Transportation, which in turn will charter the ships to Burmah.

Under the terms of the contracts Burmah Oil is liable to so-called "laid-out" damages in the event of cancellation fees, on the ships of \$15m, plus all costs incurred on their development.

Preliminary estimates suggest that these additional costs may total about \$6m to \$8m.

Greenfield sells Southend property  
Greenfield Mills, the leisurewear and camping group has sold its freehold property at 84 High Street, Southend, to I. C. L. Pension Trust, for £200,000. In Greenfield's last balance sheet the property was valued at £218,000, as a result of the transaction, the net asset backing of the group has been increased by 4.6p. Proceeds from the sale plus its recent rights issue have increased the group's cash resources by nearly £1m in the last few weeks. I. C. L. Pension Trust has granted Greenfield a new 35-year lease.Aid for UK companies  
A total of 889 British companies will be assisted by the British Overseas Trade Board this month to exhibit at 26 international trade fairs in Europe.

The 40th Annual General Meeting of the Company was held at Radcliffe, Manchester on 31st August, 1977.

Main points from the Chairman's Statement:—

● Trading results do not reflect the progress and consolidation achieved during the year.

● Development expenditure, all written off, was much higher than usual and delay in the placing of orders reduced activity for a period during which the full labour force was maintained at a very heavy cost.

● The results show the Group's resilience to special factors.

● Order levels continue to rise and with new product developments the future looks promising.

Group Results in Brief: 1977

Turnover ..... £224.1

Trading Profit ..... £23

Interest ..... 214

Taxation ..... 169

Extraordinary items ..... —

Profit after tax ..... 448

Earnings per share ..... 4.2p

Dividend per share ..... 1.07p

Tangible assets per share ..... 31p

Full Report and Accounts available from the Secretary, Bury Road, Radcliffe, Manchester.

## US decision soon in skytrain battle

From Frank Vogt

Washington, Aug. 31  
American Civil Aeronautics Board is likely to decide by the end of next week on whether or not to permit Trans World Airlines, Pan American and British Airways, to start services between New York and London which directly compete with the proposed Laker Airways skytrain.

According to informed sources, the board will hear final arguments from representatives of the airlines at a meeting scheduled for next Wednesday before it makes a decision.

The issue before the board amounts to a choice between two alternatives: to follow the long-declared policy of supporting full competition among airlines.

The board, as experts pointed out here, faces a serious dilemma. On the one hand it has repeatedly stated in recent months that it wants to see fuller competition and thus it should approve the proposed low cost transatlantic fares.

On the other hand the board has no interest in allowing competitive conditions to reach the point where airlines are in acute financial difficulties, as is the case with Laker.

The board will have to consider two lengthy legal briefs presented by the anti-trust division of the Justice Department.

One of these briefs essentially challenges the whole basis of the International Air Transport Association's system of regulated prices, and contends that the big scheduled airlines operating on the New York and London route operate a cartel.

The department has asked the Civil Aeronautics Board to investigate this issue.

The board may conduct such an investigation, but it would be a surprise to airline executives here if it decided to delay a decision on the proposed low cost programmes until such an investigation had been completed.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## August goes out on a symbolic note

August, which proved to be a near-vintage month in the stock market, duly went out on a symbolic note when the FT ordinary share index finally climbed over the 500 mark last evening. On occasions like this the market is quick to find superlatives. It is indeed the first time for four years that the index has breached 500 and certainly it is the best holiday month equities have seen since 1972. But equities are still well short of the level achieved when they peaked in May 1972 and in real terms of course very far short of that record.

Nevertheless August saw investors, lured by falling interest rates and North Sea oil revenues in coming, return to the market with some confidence. There is no case for saying the more confidence than has been seen for market has not been wrong, though still plenty of reason to think it is taking a good deal on trust.

The key of course is what remains of this Government's economic policy and whether, having buried the social contract, we shall now see the sort of wage claims that have been stirred recently actually becoming a reality. If so the consequences for inflation are obvious enough. The first positive indication comes with the TUC annual Congress next week. A vote there that seems to signal a wage-free-for-all could also mark the end of this bull market, though so far investors have chosen to believe that sense will prevail.

If they are right then this market has further to go, though with world trade prospects continuing to look uninspiring and with so many doubts about what happens to interest rates and over the next three or four months no one should expect the autumn to be quite as exciting as August has been.

Sir Michael Clapham, chairman of Imperial Metal Industries

### IMI The Monopolies question

Good though they are, Imperial Metal Industries first-half figures confirm that the United Kingdom non-ferrous refiners and fabricators have moved into the vacuum between the ending of recession and the beginning of true recovery. Compared with the corresponding half, profits are well up from £11.2m to £12.8m, but there is little change on the trends established in the second half of 1976.

Still, the better volume achieved in the final quarter of 1976 has been maintained and while there are significant differences in the products of IMI, BICC, Delta and McKenna, the results do show that the improvement in demand was more than a flash in the pan. Exports and overseas business continue to make the running with exports 29 per cent higher than in the first half of 1976 and overseas sales up 28 per cent against an overall 27 per cent gain.

But although volume, which, as with all the non-ferrous fabricators is the key to profits, is 3 per cent higher than in the first half of last year, production is still only running around 75 per cent of capacity and needs to improve by a further 10 or 15 per cent to return to 1973 levels.

Until demand improves the extra capacity will remain unused and further significant gains in profit are unlikely.

At least neither IMI nor the other fabricators should have much to fear from the suggested Monopolies Commission investigation into copper semi-manufacturers. It looks as though the idea for this investigation flowed from the investigation into cable manufacturers. Margins and profitability vary widely within the non-ferrous sector, although there is often a high degree of integration. Thus profits may be low on

copper rod, but much better on wire, and it is difficult to look at wire in isolation.

The political sensitivity of the report is likely to be low since little that the non-ferrous fabricators produce goes direct to the consumer, but could go a long way to explain what often seems an anomalous price structure between different types of fabrication. IMI and Glynwed's tubes, for example, produce returns that are not seen in many other semis.

All the groups have been good investors but they do occupy monopoly or near-monopoly positions in a market which has proved fairly impervious to importers, while being of major importance to both the engineering and building sectors.

Generally building products are currently the laggards, and diversifications, particularly at Delta, have tended to move more into this area. But IMI generally shows a picture of stronger engineering demand than from the building sector, and there are few signs of any improvement. Demand for copper tube, both for central heating and industrial use, however, remains strong, and IMI's greater engineering bias is likely to work through to its results earlier than to other groups. Its profitability, may, however, make it more sensitive to any Monopolies investigation, although recent reports have proved fairly anodyne.

IMI has performed better than the market over the last 12 months but is below its relative best. Its zip interest, after a sharp improvement last year, are unlikely to repeat that performance, and unless there is a sharp increase in demand in the fourth quarter, full year profits of £40m are not going to excite the market. The prospective yield of 7.7 per cent at 55p is above average, but there seems no reason to think it will outperform.

### Royal Worcester

#### Overseas ambitions

Royal Worcester's disappointing performance at the half-year stage contrasts starkly with buoyant reports from Wedgwood, and, though many of Royal Worcester's difficulties are unique to the company, the results do highlight the central problems of the fine china industry. The problems are those of a traditional business with prestige names leading the marketing operations and a need to expand overseas. Royal Worcester's chairman, Sir Ronald Faircliff, points out that Britain has a natural market leadership position, at least at the premium end.

In the home market that combination seems to be working, but it is overseas where any real growth must come and specifically it is in North America where the product names alone have in the past given British companies a head start.

The unexpectedly flat behaviour of the United States economy has been a problem, though this year it does look as though overall sales have been holding up quite well. But the market is expected to become increasingly competitive and the Japanese penetration at the cheaper end is seen as an ominous sign.

Wedgwood responded well to the challenge in North America and the benefits are already visible. Denbyware and Royal Worcester both found themselves in a terrible muddle and for the latter the question is whether the drastic steps it has now taken to put things in order will be the right ones.

The whole of the company's ornamental and tableware interests are now merged into Royal Worcester Spode, of which it owns 55 per cent with Carborundum holding the rest. The operational problems of the merger, particularly in North America, have proved immense and the half-time figures include an additional stock provision for RWS of £227,000, most of which concerns the American operations. The outcome is a fall in attributable pre-tax profits from £612,000 to £553,000.

The hope must now be that the problems since the merger with Spode have laid the foundation for some real export-led growth from Royal Worcester which has appointed a new chief executive at RWS, Mr Lyn Davies, whose track record in the industrial ceramics division has been good.

So, the shares at 120p, down 10p yesterday, are on a prospective yield of 8.1 per cent and p/e ratio of 7.1 which for the moment seems a sensibly cautious rating.

## Why America cannot afford to ignore its blacks

The social, economic and political condition of America's black population has improved dramatically over the past two decades.

Today there are black city mayors, black congressmen, increasing numbers of black business owners and rising numbers with university degrees.

Nevertheless, the general condition of America's blacks is still quite appalling, and the degree to which the Carter Administration can improve their condition will be vitally important in determining the medium and long-term economic prospects of the United States.

The latest Bureau of the Census figures show that out of a total population of 215.2 million there are some 24.8 million black Americans. Roughly 35 per cent of these live today in considerable poverty.

The latest unemployment figures show that some 40 per cent of black teenagers are without work, and leaders of the black community suggest that the real total is probably nearer 60 per cent.

The high rate of unemployment among blacks and other non-whites in the United States, and the high rate of poverty, combine to represent an immense drain on the economy. There is little prospect, for example, of achieving a balanced federal budget so long as so many blacks are dependent upon social welfare and unemployment benefits.

Some 50 per cent, at least, of the black population live in the large American cities, and many of them live in quite horrible conditions, where crime and drugs are all too often seen as the means of escape from deprivation.

Registration and more frightened attitudes have combined to give America's blacks greater business opportunities. Increasing numbers are entering the executive ranks of important companies, but the progress has by no means been anything like as fast as most educated blacks desire. At base, these believe that advancement to the very top echelons of American business remains barred because of racial prejudice.

It is difficult to disagree with this view when it is recognized that many of them have outstanding academic qualifications and considerable business experience, and yet there are still no prominent blacks heading the very largest banking and manufacturing companies in the country.

In Atlanta, Georgia, for example, the only black faces I saw recently at lunches in the city's leading business clubs—the Capital City Club and the Commerce Club—were those of the waiters.

There are no blacks to be seen at the regular meetings of the American Business Council or at meetings of leading American bankers and stockbrokers.

It is very difficult to refute the charges that are often made by prominent black Americans. James Baldwin, the novelist, noted recently, for example, that the black remains "the last to be hired and the first to be fired" in American business.

He added: "It does not surprise me that white high school graduates earn more than black college graduates. It is simply because they are white."

Mr Julian Bond, a prominent State Senator in Georgia, said in a recent interview that it remained a fact that the condition of blacks in the rural south of the United States was today not all that much better than it was 100 years ago.

He said that many southern small towns were still frightening places for blacks, where racial prejudices remained very strong.

His point was illustrated in an article from Benson, North Carolina published on the front page of the *New York Times* on August 29.

It noted that migrant workers in this small town "continue to



About a third of America's 25 million blacks live in poverty, many of them in the poorest parts of the big cities like the South Street area of Lower Manhattan, New York, above.

live in squalor and work under conditions that legal aid officials here describe as little better than slavery."

The current condition of black Americans was symbolized by a small episode in Atlanta recently. A black taxi-driver said that years ago he could not get a job because he was under-qualified, and today, after having got a university engineering degree, he was being denied jobs on the ground that he was over-qualified.

Mr Bond said that this black man's opportunities had, nevertheless, improved, as after all it was not so many years ago when a black man was not allowed to drive a white man in the city, and thus at least as a taxi-driver his chances were now better.

Most of America's black political leaders strongly supported Mr Carter's bid for the Presidency, and they rightly claim that the President would not have won the election without their support.

The most notable exception was Mr Bond, who did not support Mr Carter until very late in the day because he did not feel that Mr Carter had gone far enough in making firm commitments to improve the lot of the black American.

Today Mr Bond feels that his opposition was more than justified, and indeed many black leaders are now publicly stating that they are bitterly disappointed with the new President.

They look for major programmes to revitalize the ailing cities, to provide jobs for all who want them and to provide more realistic and better delivered social welfare schemes.

According to Mr Bond, the President's new welfare programme is a move in the right direction, but it was only improved upon after one of the leading spokesmen for the black community, Mr Vernon Jordan, roundly criticized the President's performance in late July.

This programme is now encouraging Mr Bond to hope for brighter days, and he is further encouraged by what he perceives as quiet moves by the President to move away from

his commitment to balance the Federal Budget by 1981.

Almost all economists agree that there is no way the President can greatly reduce the unemployment rate, launch new urban housing and welfare programmes and balance the budget at the same time.

The President is going to be forced increasingly by the trade union leaders and the leaders of America's black population to abandon his budget target.

He may find that he has no choice other than to do this if he wants to be reelected. He will maintain the voting support of America's blacks only if, to quote Mr Bond, he "shows what he is prepared to do to repay those who worked for him" in the 1976 campaign.

America's blacks will be satisfied only with quite massive public works, social, urban renewal and housing programmes.

In the long term the budget can be balanced only when far more blacks are contributing taxes, rather than obtaining benefits from the government. In addition, there is absolutely no doubt in anyone's mind that there is a strong link between the high crime level in America and the deprivation of the black American.

Time Magazine reported recently that some 55 per cent of all blacks who were arrested for looting shops when New York had its power failure in July were unemployed.

The crime rates in big American cities like Detroit and Chicago and New York have risen in line with the unemployment rates, and the greatest increases in unemployment have been seen among non-white Americans in these cities.

The widespread looting in New York is widely being viewed as a warning of possibly worse things to come. Some of the big northern cities could face serious riots of the sort seen a decade ago if the problems of inadequate economic opportunities are not swiftly attacked.

Many local and state politicians are breathing a sigh of relief that such riots have not taken place in this long and hot summer.

Thus, maintaining social stability and ensuring economic growth in America is going to depend upon the efforts made in improving the condition of America's racial minorities. Most notably the blacks, but also the roughly 3.7 million other non-whites legally resident in the country (plus, of course, the countless hundreds of thousands of illegal residents).

Such is the condition of black Americans today that there is absolutely no justification for the complacency so evident on encountering so many white business leaders, who rightly claim that much has been done to improve the condition of the black American in recent years.

Much more needs still to be done—and urgently.

Frank Vogl

### Economic notebook

## Where has all the investment gone?

The failure of the sluggish, two-year-old economic recovery to gain momentum in most of the industrialized nations arises in large measure from the continuing weakness of investment spending by companies on new productive capacity.

Historically, capital investment has played an important role in spurring national economies out of recession, and it is not only the British Government that is relying heavily on business investment to spearhead the revival this time.

Yet, in spite of the various financial inducements offered in many countries, there is little evidence outside the United States that businessmen are responding in the desired way. Over the next year, private non-residential investment in most places is predicted to remain below—or only fractionally above—the peak attained in 1973.

On the face of it, the most obvious explanation for this would seem to be the high level of existing unused plant and machinery which is assumed to be available after the unprecedented postwar fall in economic activity. If this is the case, it might be expected that the investment problem would dissolve if other elements of demand picked up and the margin of slack in national economies appeared to be diminishing.

In fact, it is far from certain that even then a significant rise in capital spending would be forthcoming. All the evidence suggests that business confidence has been so badly shattered by the dramatic developments of the last few years that there is now a deep scepticism about the ability of governments to engineer another sustainable recovery.

West German surveys, for example, show that businessmen there expect a real market growth rate of only 1 or 2 per cent over the next 10 to 20 years, though even this extreme pessimism might, no doubt, be dispelled by a convincing and carefully moderated economic revival.

Rather more disturbing is the evidence of problems of a more structural character affecting capital investment. In many countries—the United States, West Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom—the growth of investment has been deteriorating for some years. A symptom of this was the early and widespread capacity shortages that developed during the 1972-73 boom and the weakness of the investment recovery during the preceding upswing.

This deterioration in capital spending has itself left a seemingly large shortfall in the required level of investment to meet the expanding employment needs of the labour force. But this is not the end of the story. Superimposed upon this deterioration in investment growth are a number of other trends which might be expected to raise the overall investment requirement. These arise from changes that have taken place since the early 1970s in the real costs of energy, environmental protection and labour, relative to output prices.

These changes have rendered a lot of existing productive capacity inefficient and unprofitable. This quite probably means that much of the existing unused capacity is in fact unusable, and that the actual investment requirement in coming years is a good deal higher than past trends would suggest.

Yet what appears to be happening is that businessmen, anxious to remain competitive in a static market, have increased the rate of scrapping and replacement, at the expense of investing in new capacity and expanding their productive base to meet expected future demand.

The problem is that while, on the one hand changes in the relative cost of input prices might be expected to stimulate investment in new, more efficient forms of production, they simultaneously have the effect of reducing the profits which must be generated to pay for new investment. Profitability is, indeed, at the heart of the investment problem.

A secular decline in profitability—measured as the gross rate of return on capital—has been evident in the United States, West Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium and the United Kingdom since the middle or late 1960s, or even longer. This is generally acknowledged. The more controversial question is what has caused this decline in profitability.

There would seem to be more than one influence at work. The increasing relative costs of energy, environmental protection and labour have already been mentioned.

In particular, the increasing relative cost of labour has been frequently singled out. But the position is not wholly clear. The increase in labour costs relative to output prices ought, theoretically, to encourage companies to invest in more capital-intensive and less labour-intensive processes.

Curiously, there is little evidence of this happening. For a greater ratio of machines to labour would lead to an acceleration in the growth of labour productivity. There are few countries where there are signs of such a trend.

One possibility is that the risks of investing in new investment are today perceived to be much higher than in earlier years, and therefore higher returns on capital are required to induce capital spending. A lower premium may be attached to avoiding being caught with debt in labour costs rising when the level of demand in the economy is low.

Another possibility is that the increasing proportion of debt in the balance sheets of companies in many countries has now grown intolerably high. Debt-equity ratios have risen almost everywhere.

The only point that is clear is that more resources have somehow, to be channelled into productive investment and that this will not happen until governments are prepared to allow the level of demand in their economies to rise.

Melvyn Westlake

## Business Diary: Paying the piper • Westons prescription

Former prime ministers, or indeed any other politicians who served in government, being hounded, should not get quickly down to Robert White, chairman of the London Hydraulic Power Company.

Mr White has just received his copy of the new Hydropower Bill, which gives him 155 miles of pipeline under death central London for uses other than the supply of hydraulic power, which is just as well since the last drop of water flowed through the pipes eight weeks ago.

He had to concede that electricity was certainly more ubiquitous and cheaper, and that Mr White, who still wakes up at night about the old system which did everything from running the lifts to little old lights in Black Court, is raising lower bridge.

He told Business Diary yesterday that he would like to hear from anyone who wanted a tunnel-proof, confidential communications network. The theory is that the case, now being made by the City, is to carry the old cable, which carried information in the form of electrical signals transformed into light signals. No one has found a way of bugging light, Mr White said.

A quick look at the LHP network shows that the main system, made up of many places, right down Whitehall and along Millbank and there are branches off into many government buildings, such as the Treasury, the Foreign Office and even the Houses of Parliament. So the system could be used to send top secret information between the various corridors of power.

There is one catch. The network also runs down Fleet Street, home of Chapman Pincher, defence correspondent of the *Daily Express*, spy-watcher and former scientist. Fibre optics may be bug-proof, but given a year...

be used to send top secret information between the various corridors of power. There is one catch. The network also runs down Fleet Street, home of Chapman Pincher, defence correspondent of the *Daily Express*, spy-watcher and former scientist. Fibre optics may be bug-proof, but given a year...

Keen golfer Crompton Carter should soon have ample opportunity for improving his short game. He is moving to Jeddah as resident director in Saudi Arabia for builders Lesser International. Before leaving he was presented with a sand wedge by his fellow directors—for bunker practice.

Peter Van Oss is leaving Max Factor after only a year as deputy to managing director Neville Stranger to become managing director of Westons Chemicals.

Westons, which has about 200 shops, has proved a thorn in the side of its parent company, Dixons Photographic, ever since Dixons took over the firm in a £10.5m deal early last year.

Dixons chairman and managing director Stanley Kalms was found to find that Westons' pharmaceutical producer, Barclay Fine Chemicals, was losing much more money than he had at first thought.

The plant, at Rawdon, York, which has since been closed, has in fact left some weeks ago. Van Oss takes over in October, at which time he will also join the Dixons board.



Peter Van Oss yesterday: it's not just cosmetic.

having joined Dixons' main board.

Van Oss, 41, made his name at Boots as director and head of sales and merchandise, as the company began the expansion that makes it, with 1,300 shops, the market leader among retail chemists.

Dixons/Westons are clearly tickled to have caught Van Oss and are looking to him to re-orient some shops and to enlarge the size or range of merchandise of others.

Westons' previous managing director, Brian McElroy, resigned in fact from today, although he in fact left some weeks ago. Van Oss takes over in October, at which time he will also join the Dixons board.

Other personnel changes are not expected to follow his arrival. Among several other new appointments announced is that of director, deputy managing director, in charge of the "professional" or dispensing side of the business.

Inflation has at last caught up with the rewards offered by the clearing banks for the public help over bank rates. From today anyone brave enough, or with their wits sufficiently about them, during a raid will find the maximum reward stepped up from £2,500 to £5,000.

Even so, this does not fully reflect the rewards of inflation since 1971 when the maximum was last increased, since taking this into account would require a maximum closer to £6,500.

Only someone who actually physically takes a rubber during the crime is generally rewarded with the maximum and since the scheme was first introduced in 1960 it has been paid out on only 19 occasions. Otherwise, the level is scaled down to match the value of the information provided.

Meanwhile, loss assessors working for the insurance companies have already effectively index-linked their rewards by maintaining them at 10 per cent of the money stolen. Securix, however, lags some way behind with a maximum reward of £1,000, although in cases of really nasty crimes—such as the Dartford murder last year—the company offered £10,000 over and above the loss assessors' usual 10 per cent.

Despite past wrangles—especially over duties on imported Scotch—relations between Japanese and home whisky distillers are good.

Or so says Keizo Saji, president of Suntory (which has about 70 per cent of the Japanese market), who was in London yesterday to pay a first visit to the Suntory Restaurant in London (formerly, alas, Prunier's), one of the few places in Britain where the company's whisky is available.

Later this week he goes to Scotland as the guest of Haig, which is represented in Japan by Suntory. Scotch and Japanese whiskeys aim at different sections of the market, Saji explained.

But it is also a business trip for Saji. He is heading a mission representing the Federation of Economic Organisations (something similar to the CBI, he said) to study the problems facing free enterprise economies.

Polish officials arrive in London next week to discuss British Shipbuilders' pitch for some or all of the £130m of orders the Poles wish to place. The deal has been cooking since December, but you would never know from reading Polish Maritime News, the official organ of the shipping and shipbuilding industry there. No mention has been made of the negotiations so far and there is nothing in the July/August edition either. Is this a bad omen for the British or just a case of nothing being news until somebody in authority says so?

## WEIR THE WEIR GROUP LIMITED INTERIM STATEMENT

Results for 25 weeks ended 24th June, 1977

Subject to Audit

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	25 weeks to 24th June 1977 £'000s	25 weeks to 24th June 1976 £'000s	52 weeks to 31st Dec 1976 £'000s
TURNOVER			
The Group	81,380	56,841	138,121
PROFIT BEFORE INTEREST AND TAX			
The Group	5,392	4,865	9,780
Associated Companies	576	440	859
	5,968	5,105	10,639
Interest payable less receivable	1,438	1,746	3,136
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	4,530	3,359	7,503
Estimated Tax	1,900	1,241	3,292
PROFIT AFTER TAX	2,630	2,118	4,211
Profit attributable to Minority Interests	141	113	378
PROFIT BEFORE EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS	2,489	2,005	3,833
Extraordinary Items: Add (Deduct)	(158)	512	789
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE WEIR GROUP LTD	2,331	2,517	4,622
EARNINGS PER SHARE	10.0p	8.0p	15.4p

### INTERIM DIVIDEND

An interim dividend of 1.694p per share (1976: 1.54p) will be paid to Shareholders for the 52 weeks ending 30th December, 1977. Payment, absorbing £422,000 will be made on 9th January, 1978, to Members on the Register at close of business on 30th November, 1977.

### TRADING AND PROSPECTS

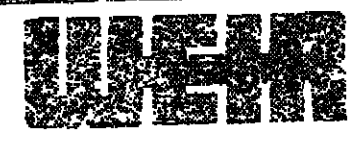
In spite of the difficult trading conditions which prevail in engineering at home and abroad, profits before tax for the first half of 1977 were higher than in either half of 1976.

The increase in Group sales, and the apparent decline in profit margins is largely due to heavy shipments of desalination plant on which only a small proportion of expected profit has been taken at this stage.

The market for pumps is still very competitive. Nevertheless, Weir Pumps Ltd. made improved profits. The shipbuilders produced good results, helped by a strong export performance. Desalination contracts are proceeding satisfactorily and this market remains very active.

The interim dividend is being raised proportionately to the maximum amount permitted. It is expected that results for the second half of the year will show some further improvement on those reported here.

The Weir Group Limited Cathcart Glasgow G44 4EX





## TELEFUSION

## Summary of Results

Year to April 1977	1977	1976
	£m	£m
Turnover ex V.A.T.	62.0	44.0
Profit before Taxation	3.1	1.1
Cash Flow	9.4	7.7
Earnings per Share	6.4p	1.2p

Final Dividend of 0.620273p per share recommended which together with interim of 0.55p represents the maximum permissible under Government dividend restraint.

The Annual Report will be posted to shareholders on 23rd September 1977 and Annual General Meeting will be held on 20th October 1977.

PRESTON NEW ROAD · BLACKPOOL · FY4 4QY

This Advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange.

## RENWICKS

The Renwick Group Limited  
(Registered in England No. 247231)

**Issue of 750,000 10 per cent. Convertible Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of £1 each at par.**

The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted the above Shares to the Official List. Applications by existing holders of Ordinary Shares and 4.9 per cent. Convertible Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of the Company have been allotted in full.

Particulars of the New Preference Shares are available in the statistical services of Exel Statistical Services Limited and copies of such particulars may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including 15th September, 1977 from:

Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited,  
New Issues Department,  
Augustine House, Austin Friars, London EC2N 2JL.

Parimure Gordon & Co.,  
9 Moorfields Highwalk, London EC2Y 9DS.

## AMC

## Announcement

The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Limited announce that with effect from 1st September, 1977 the rate of interest for

## EXISTING VARIABLE RATE LOANS

will be

11%

Borrowers whose loans are reviewed on a six monthly basis will continue to pay 12%.

Both rates will remain in force until 1st December, 1977, the date of the next review.

Until further notice, the rate of interest which will apply to

NEW VARIABLE RATE LOANS

will be

11%

For full details of this and other facilities please contact

The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Limited,

Bucklersbury House, 3 Queen Victoria Street,

London EC4N 8DU. Tel. 01-248 6711.

This advertisement complies with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange.

## Beecham Financiering B.V.

(Incorporated with limited liability in the Netherlands)

U.S. \$30,000,000 6½% Convertible Guaranteed Bonds 1992

Guaranteed as to payment of principal, premium (if any) and interest by, and convertible into Ordinary Shares of, —

## Beecham Group Limited

(Incorporated with limited liability in England)

The following have agreed to subscribe or procure subscribers for the Bonds:—

Hill Samuel & Co.

Limited

Commerzbank

Aktiengesellschaft

Credit Suisse White Weld

Limited

Deutsche Bank

Aktiengesellschaft

Goldman Sachs International Corp.

The Bonds, issued at par, have been admitted to the Official List by the Council of The Stock Exchange. Interest is payable annually in arrears on 15th September, commencing on 15th September, 1978.

Particulars of the Bonds and of the Company are available in the Exel Statistical Service and may be obtained during usual business hours up to and including 15th September, 1977 from the brokers to the issue:—

Joseph Sebag & Co.,

P.O. Box 511,

Bucklersbury House,

3 Queen Victoria Street,

London EC4N 8DX.

1st September, 1977.

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Holding 500 depends on ICI

The FT 30-Share Index has broken the vital 500 barrier but dealers are convinced that the extension of this gain and the market's ability to explore new ground rests heavily on the second quarter figures due from ICI at around noon today.

The index closed 10 ahead at 500.9 and, once again, leading equities demonstrated their ability to absorb profit taking. In several second line issues shortages of stock were responsible for some price rises but top shares enjoyed good turnover.

Gilt-edged securities which rose 26 pence during August again spread their benign

APCM's buoyancy and prospects of a mortgage rate cut next month prompted gains in other building counters and Taylor Woodrow added 10p to 412p. Johnson-Richards Tiles featured with a 12p rise to 263p and sound profits from Cement Roadstone led to a 4p improvement at 85p.

A long list of companies reporting yesterday also buoyed confidence. Weir Group put on 3 1/2p to 121p, bumper profits from A. C. Black pushed the shares ahead by 8p to 71p, while more consideration of the previous day's announcement from Johnson-Ladbrooke Group and London United Investments helped the shares up 4 1/2p to 157 1/2p and 9p to 127p respectively.

Expectations of buoyant figures this month added 12p to Sun Alliance, while Pearl Assurance beat most forecasts and the shares edged 2p ahead to 218p. The market is also hoping for a batch of encouraging results from Steeltek, whose shares improved 6p to 221p.

The only setback among reporting companies was suffered by Royal Worcester, where disappointing profits clipped 10p off the shares to 120p. For the rest, bids made much of the running. The projected North-East engineering merger

put 11p on Reylor Parsons at 221p, while Clarke Chapman, its future partner—provided shareholders approved—put on 1p at 85p. Pegg Holdings continued to shine with a 7p lift to 112p as dealers waited for further details on the bid talks.

Hopes of an approach from Nottingham Manufacturing helped Wood Bastow and the Marks & Spencer supplier advanced 3p to 110p.

Primrose Industries received a bid approach, the source was unconfirmed yesterday, and climbed 1 1/2p to 53p. Hopes of an offer for B. & S. Whiteley rounded off a sizable batch of rumours and the shares climbed 5p to 44p.

Other than gilts, where rises were confined to minor movements in shorts, the bullish tone was sustained in the afternoon trading. Stores continued to do well with GUS "A" prominent. Linford's results helped the shares to 321p for a net gain of 3 1/2p on the day and Esperanza were wanted for the same reason.

BOC International featured among the leaders as the market learned of the final removal of the US injunction against the Airco stake and the shares added a penny or two. But Primrose lost some of its earlier strength and BP was a weak

feature of an improving oil pitch ahead of today's results. Equity turnover was £53.18m (10,711 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph, active stocks yesterday were ICI, Chloride Group, confounded the

clearing in June when it reported pre-tax profits of a useful £26.4m against £19.3m for the year to last March despite a long strike at two big factories. But the following month the strikes went back and it is thought that Chloride is getting through its backlog well. Some indeed hope for profits of around £30m for this year, and a bit further ahead it has a sodium sulphate battery under development which should solve the weight problem of the conventional lead acid battery. The shares rose 3p to 121p yesterday.

Shell, GUS "A", Beecham Group, BAT Dfd, Barclays Bank, Reed International, Rio Tinto Zinc, British Home Stores and ICI Industries. Other active stocks were Lucas Industries, Royal Worcester, APCM, Ladbrooke Group, Coral Leisure Group and Johnson Tiles.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	cost
Int of Fin	1,040.721	5,000.422	2.10	120(1.10)	3/10	250(1.10)
Ayer Hiltam (F)	(—)	36.3(32.7c)	273(202)	125(—)	3/10	250(1.10)
Cement-Roadstone (F)	68.6(55.7)	6.6(5.5)	4.71(3.94)	1.93(1.46)	7/10	(4.06)
Compo Hides (F)	(—)	0.02(0.01)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Erskine Hse (F)	9.3(1.1)	0.17(0.47)	3.4(3.07)	1.71(1.54)	15/10	1.72(1.54)
Esperanza Tde (F)	35.3(30.6)	3.1(2.9)	2.5(2.15)	2.1(2.3)	2/10	5.0(4.5)
Fairclough Cons (F)	88.0(80.3)	3.0(2.4)	3.84(3.02)	1.1(1.0)	5/10	(—)
Grovebell Grp (F)	1.6(1.0)	0.04(0.02)	1.03(0.35)	0.0(0.3)	14/10	(0.8)
Imp Metal Ind (F)	236.5(185.5)	18.0(15.0)	1.5(1.35)	1.5(1.35)	12/10	(2.9)
Johnson Matthey (F)	103.1(103.0)	5.56(4.74)	5.56(4.74)	(—)	(—)	(12.1)
Linford Hides (F)	293.8(191.0)	5.8(3.0)	56.0(41.2)	11.99(10.0)	3/10	16.99(14.0)
Nu-Swift Ind (F)	4.3(3.7)	0.51(0.48)	2.57(2.40)	0.66(0.6)	3/10	(1.4)
W. L. Fawson (F)	0.83(0.83)	0.01(0.03a)	(—)	nil(—)	(—)	(—)
Pearl Assurance (F)	(—)	0.44(0.30)	5.6(4.5)	3.8(3.65)	14/10	1.1(2.6)
H. & J. Quide (F)	22.1(16.6)	0.44(0.30)	5.6(4.5)	3.8(3.65)	14/10	1.1(2.6)
Royal Worcs (F)	15.5(10.3)	0.55(0.67)	4.40(4.88)	2.18(1.93)	1/10	(5.72)
Slough Est (F)	(—)	3.1(3.0)	1.83(1.78)	0.75(0.75)	17/10	(2.02)
Sunbeam Wels (F)	9.8(6.9)	0.36(0.15)	0.36(0.15)	0.25(0.11)	5/10	(—)
Telefunken (F)	60.4(44.0)	3.1(1.1)	6.4(1.17)	6.4(1.17)	25/10	1.17(1.04)
Troch Mines (F)	(—)	10.9(2.76)	4.27(4.54)	30(25)	4/10	(25)
Turner Curzon (F)	85.7(48.64)	0.38(0.44d)	1.76(0.97d)	0.4(0.3)	14/10	0.71(0.5)
Weir Group (F)	81.3(36.8)	4.5(3.3)	10.04(8.0)	1.69(1.54)	9/10	(1.47)

## Johnson Matthey ahead but growth prospects muted

By Desmond Quigley  
Despite a marginal increase in turnover, Johnson Matthey, the bullion dealing, banking and manufacturing group, increased profits by 17 per cent from £4.74m to £5.56m in the first quarter to the end of June.

The results were more or less in line with expectations and suggest that this year's growth will be somewhat more pedestrian than last year, which incorporated a degree of recovery from the 1975-76 downturn.

The banking, dealing and trading side turned in profits much the same as last year. Trading and dealing, however,

are unlikely to have fared as well as in the first quarter last year because of the decline in the price of platinum group metal and the consequent decline in the group's commission income.

Refining and chemical operations showed an increase in profits, helped by the higher off-take by Ford Motor Co of catalytic converters for motor vehicles. This section is of increasing importance to the group although the reparation by the United States authorities and the rearguard action being fought by the motor manufacturers has delayed the advance. An improvement in the

United Kingdom in the demand for mechanical products was offset by weaker demand in several countries, particularly Australia, Sweden and Canada.

Much of Johnson Matthey's work is highly volume sensitive and slight changes in demand can have a disproportionate effect on profits and the sluggish pace of major economies is holding the group back.

The shares rose 2p to 44 1/2p yesterday where the prospective yield is 4.6 per cent. However, with the historical dividend well covered there is scope for an improvement in the dividend when controls are lifted.

## Dividend up, trade down at Stoddard

Times can change quickly in the carpet making business but the market, especially after the Bond Worth collapse, needs no reminding of that.

Stoddard Holdings (Aston) Ltd, which has been producing carpets, has seen the best, but may not yet have witnessed the worst. In the year to May 31 sales rose from £17m to £19.4m and pre-tax profits sedately from £952,000 to £1.18m.

But taken month by month Stoddard has not been sedate. In the first half year the group pushed up sales by 14 per cent to £9.3m, sending pre-tax profits leaping by 82 per cent to a record £734,000. So in the second six months Stoddard made only £447,000.

Clearly the change in trading was sudden. In February the directors reported at half time that orders were good and barring an economic downturn, business was expected to stay brisk.

Now the board says that raw material and factory costs have continued to rise, forcing the group to mark up its own prices.

The directors also add that on August 16 a receiver was appointed to a major customer. The board has provided in full for all sums owing even though the receivers were appointed after the balance sheet date. However the dividend rises by the usual 10 per cent.

## BOC Int encouraged by Airco injunction ruling

By Bryan Appleyard

BOC International is taking as "an encouraging sign" the news that a United States District Court in Delaware has dissolved a four-year-old injunction arising from the company's purchase of a 35 per cent stake in Airco.

The injunction was granted to the Federal Trade Commission in March 1974 and it required the maintenance of Airco as an independent company, stopped purchase of more shares by BOC and restrained transfer of the shares. It was intended as a holding operation while the FTC assembled its case against BOC on the basis that it was violating United States anti-trust laws.

But the news of the quashing of the injunction is being taken as less important than the com-

ments on the situation from Chief Judge Larchum. He said he considered it unlikely that the Supreme Court would hear the case.

The Supreme Court is the last course open to the FTC following the Court of Appeal's recent setting aside of the order to BOC to divest itself completely of the Airco stake.

The FTC recently applied for a 60-day extension to the time allowed for it to apply to the Supreme Court and this expires on October 16.

Commenting on the situation yesterday, Sir Leslie Smith, BOC chairman, welcomed the latest move and the judge's remarks, but added: "Although it is very frustrating we still have to await the outcome of the FTC's decision to seek leave to appeal the US Supreme Court."

## Primrose Ind gets informal approach

Primrose Industrial Holdings of South Africa tells members that an informal approach had been made to the board "indicating the possible intention of making a bid for the equity of the company". But no specific proposals have been made and shareholders will be kept informed.

Meanwhile for the year to end-June last, it reports a decrease in profits after normal tax of 64 per cent to £2.03m on turnover down 16 per cent to £32.2m against the background of a decline in the building industry "to the worst level in

many years". July and August showed no signs of improvement. The final dividend is reduced to 2.5 pence in spite of the forecast in May of an 8 pence final payment.

WALTER ALEXANDER April to June trading in line with targets and Mr Walter Alexander, chairman, anticipated topping last year's £1.9m pre-tax total.

MIDLAND BANK Over £17m was raised in United Kingdom in August by issue of marketable securities according to Midland Bank, an increase of £4m on July figure. So far this year 1943.5m has been raised

## Buoyant colour TV rentals gives threefold boost to Telefusion

By Alison Mitchell

The increased number of households renting colour television sets has been the main impetus behind a near threefold jump in profits at Telefusion.

In the 12 months to April 30, the Blackpool-based group boosted pre-tax profits to £3.14m from a depressed previous level of £1.13m, while turnover rose from £44m to £62m.

Most of the improvement on the television side—and the rentals division accounts for around 75 per cent of profits—came from an increasing density of sets per branch. Mr John Wilkinson, chairman, reveals that the group spent around £51m in the year buying 30,000 new sets for rental, while the numbers of branches remained fairly steady. At the end of March, Telefusion paid just over £3m to buy 19 branches from Focus Television. Although this acquisition contributed little to profits in the past year, it should make a contribution in the current 12 months.

At present there are no plans to expand the business through increasing the number of outlets. Mr Wilkinson stresses that expansion is more likely to come from stepping up the number of sets on rent from each branch. With colour television penetration at around 50 per cent, against 99 per cent for black and white, there is plenty of room for further growth, he says.

In the first three months of the current year, new rentals show an improvement on the same period last year. The retail side of the business—which includes Trident Dis-



Mr John Wilkinson, chairman of Telefusion.

count Centres—increased its profit contribution to £800,000 in the year, despite the depressed level of consumer spending. And unless there is some form of Government reflation or an increase in the general standard of living, this division is unlikely to show much improvement in the current year, says the chairman. The balance of the pre-tax profits—some £250,000—came from Europe where the colour television rental market is more buoyant. Subscriber density in Brussels was recently increased by a £34,000 take-over and further expansion in this country is planned.

## E &amp; O plans to write-off adverse balance

By Our Financial Staff

In profit for the year to end-March, 1977, English & Overseas Investments now put forward proposals to bring its capital more into line with assets employed. The directors proposed to cancel the share premium account of £2.01m and to reduce the capital with a view to writing-off the major part of its adverse balance on profit and loss account. At March 31 last this stood at £2.76m.

The scheme involves the cancellation of the share premium account and the writing-down to 6p of the existing 10p shares. That will involve a total reduction of £2.69m and almost extinguishing the adverse balance of profit and loss account. The 6p shares will be reconverted in 10p shares, so that shareholders will hold three 10p shares for every five now held. For the year to March 31 last it reports a pre-tax profit of £184,000 against a loss of

£155,000, after depreciation and amortization of £107,000 against £88,000 and interest of £121,000 against £99,000. Turnover amounted to £4.23m compared with £2.87m. After all extraordinary items against a debit of £165,000, profit comes to £195,000 against a loss of £328,000. Earnings a share work out at 1.14p compared with a loss of 0.99p. There is again no dividend.

Meanwhile the board is confident that the profits reported "can and will" be maintained, and indeed that they will be increased in the current year. This is provided that adverse factors outside its control do not arise in 1977-78.

Generally, as a result of the activities of the year just past, the balance sheet has been strengthened and the company's financial position much improved. Meanwhile, the directors state their intention to start payment of dividends "in the near future".

## Linford Hdg gets boost from retail

By Alison Mitchell

Increased concentration on the retail side of the business has paid off handsomely for supermarket to cash-and-carry distributor Linford Holdings.

In the year to April 30 last the group increased pre-tax profit from £2m to £5.8m on turnover up just over £100m to £293.9m. These results include the pre-tax profits of recently acquired Gateway Securities which totalled £1.4m in the 53 weeks. But even with this stripped out, Linwood showed a near 50 per cent increase in profits in the period.

Lord Kissin, chairman, said yesterday that both the increased size of the group and the policy of relying more heavily on retailing had helped to fuel the upsurge.

Because of the operation of accelerated capital allowances and stock relief, no corporation tax is payable this year and no provision has been made for deferred tax. Provisions made in earlier years seem unlikely to become payable in the foreseeable future, the directors say, and some £5.3m has been transferred to reserves.

The current year has started well for Linwood with May to July trading ahead of the same period last year. But the chairman would make no forecast for the future, in view of the current uncertainties surrounding wage settlements.

Guinness Peat Group have a 19.16 per cent stake in Linwood.

## Nu-Swift is poised for £1m or more

By Our Financial Staff

The bulletin from Nu-Swift Industries the fire extinguisher group, lists no fewer than six highlights of the six months to June 30.

Among them is an increase in turnover of 15 per cent to £4.35m; a 22 per cent rise in orders from all markets; and an unexecuted order book as much as 72 per cent up on the 1976 year-end figure.

Moreover exports again led growth and they are now over half output in quantity. Finally, Mr Ivan Dorr and his colleagues say: "If we do not encounter any material adverse trading conditions we are well placed to achieve, for the first time, profits of over £1 million for the whole year."

As this string-tale goes with a 10 per cent increase in no-tariff dividend it seems a case of charity to point out that pre-tax profits rose by only 7 per cent to £514,000 and margins narrowed.

A year ago at half-time for 1976, Nu-Swift was reporting a 68 per cent leap in pre-tax profits and a widening of margins from 8.7 per cent to as much as 12.7 per cent. In the last six months they were 11.8 per cent.

However it is something that profits are once again on the move. In the second half of last year they actually slipped from the first half's £481,000 to £447,000.

The directors now say that the group is poised to grow more; that prospects for expansion abroad are still good, and even at home where sluggish economic activity restrains optimism, the owners are for a better inflow of orders.

## Briefly

compared with a previous £1.35m.

CLIFF OIL Issue of new shares by company over-subscribed 2 1/2 times, will be allotted on following basis:—Up to 30 shares, in full; 31-75 shares, 31 shares; 76 and over, 35 shares.

TURNER CURZON Manufacturing and timber broking group made pre-tax profit of £387,000 for year to March 31

Terms have been fixed for issue of £100m guaranteed bonds, 1982, issued by Barclays Overseas Investment. Bonds carry coupon of 8 1/2 per cent and issue price fixed at par.

VAVASSEUR-MILLS & ALLEN Scheme of reconstruction affecting merger of two companies through the purchase of Mills & Allen of J. H. Vavasseur has been approved. Stock Exchange has been asked temporarily to suspend both companies while discussions continue.



## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Slough Ests reverses cautious forecast

By Ashley Driver

Through still returning pessimistic forecasts for the coming half of 1977, Slough Estates, which last month reversed its cautious forecast, now predicts a profit of £1.5m in 1977, compared with £1.2m in 1976. The company's forecast is based on the assumption that the company will be able to secure a number of new contracts, particularly in the area of housing and commercial buildings.

Slough Estates, which is a subsidiary of the parent company, has been successful in securing a number of new contracts, particularly in the area of housing and commercial buildings. The company's forecast is based on the assumption that the company will be able to secure a number of new contracts, particularly in the area of housing and commercial buildings.

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## Benefits from desalination still to show through at Weir Group

By Our Financial Staff

Profits of Glasgow-based engineering concern Weir Group increased by around 25 per cent in the first six months of this year, despite difficult trading conditions both at home and abroad.

In the 25 weeks to June 24, the group turned in a pre-tax profit of £4.5m against £3.3m in the same period last year. Turnover rose from £56.8m to £81.4m, leaving pre-tax margins down from 5.9 to 5.5 per cent.

However, Lord Weir, chairman, lays the blame for this decline on the heavy shipments of desalination plant to the Middle East. Only a small proportion of expected profit has been taken at this stage.

Weir Group currently has orders for desalination plant valued at around £150m on its books. There should be a slight increase in profits from this

sector showing through in the second half, but it will be 1978-79 before it makes a significant contribution, according to Lord Weir.

On the engineering side the news is not so good. With the world downturn in demand, competition for contracts has increased and Weir currently has fewer orders on its books than at the same time last year.

But the chairman stressed that the situation is not yet causing the group much alarm. Profits at Weir Pumps improved in the six months while the steel foundries, helped by a strong export performance, also produced good results.

And Lord Weir forecasts that the second half of the year should show some further im-

provement on the first six months. Last year the group turned in total pre-tax profits of £7.5m.

Lord Weir, chairman of Weir Group.

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## Silentnight clinches two deals

Two important deals have been clinched by Silentnight, big in mattresses, divans, headboards, upholstery, furniture and components.

June's annual meeting was told of talks with R. Foster and shareholders are now told that R. Foster, and H. and M. Binder are joining the group. The two companies have sales of more than £3m and employ 335 workers whose output will spearhead a big Silentnight export drive. Silentnight's total 1976-77 turnover was £30.5m.

Mr Tom Clarke, chairman, said: "All three companies obtain benefits—and this to my mind is both the objective and the justification for getting together of this kind."

Binder makes hand carved oak reproduction furniture and can now produce cabinet furniture to complement the Foster-Len range of dining room chairs and upholstery. Silentnight's Scotch sawmill will supply both companies with timber and cut imports.

At the June annual meeting, Silentnight shareholders were also told that profits were ahead and that the group was poised to exploit any recovery in consumer spending as the year progressed.

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## FAIRCLOUGH

5 months ended 30th June, 1977  
6 months ended 30th June, 1976  
12 months ended 31st December, 1976

Turnover	88,049	80,319	163,471
Profit before taxation	3,056	2,413	5,954
Profit after taxation	1,467	1,158	2,828

Earnings per ordinary share (basic)	3.921p	3.125p	7.650p
Dividend per ordinary share	1.000p	1.000p	2.250p

1 The charge for taxation for 1977 is estimated and based on Corporation Tax of 52% (1976 - 52%)

2 The Earnings and Dividends per Share for 1976 have been adjusted for the 1977 Capitalisation issue.

Points from the Statement of the Chairman, Mr. Oswald Davies, C.B.E., D.C.M., J.P.

- The Group's forward workload in the United Kingdom has been maintained.
- Good progress is being made with our major work in Saudi Arabia.
- Further expansion has taken place overseas, with additional work in Kenya and Iran.
- The Group's liquid resources have been kept at a high level.

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MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

## Sears now seeks to buy stake in French shoe firm

Sears Holdings, which recently made an unsuccessful bid of \$41m for a quarter share stake in Avis of America, the world's second largest car rental group, and which recently agreed to sell its loss-making United States knitwear company, Highland, to Arreco has announced that it has agreed to buy a 25 per cent stake in the French shoe-making firm of Charles Jourdan.

Discussions with Jourdan began some months ago when British Shoe learned that Genesco wanted to sell its interest in the French shoe firm. The talks have been interrupted by the French holiday period, but Mr. Leonard Sears, Sears deputy chairman, said he hoped they will resume shortly.

He declined to put a price on a possible purchase, but industry sources said it would be at least around \$20m (about £11.7m). Genesco has confirmed that it wanted to sell its 25 per cent stake.

Genesco owns about a 92 per cent interest in the French company. However, the spokesman declined further comment.

In July, Sears Holdings sold the bulk of its 20.3 per cent stake in Freeman's (London SW9), the mail order concern which it took up in 1973 and

Out of the total holding of 4.7 million shares, Sears sold 4.2 million shares by means of a placing through the stock market by its brokers, Joseph Sebag.

In a statement at the time, Sears said the disposal had produced a "satisfactory profit" and had released more than £2m to augment existing cash resources available to the Sears group.

Cockerill's big loss

Cockerill SA, the major Belgian steel company, may suffer a loss of £200m (about £120m) in 1977 and certainly will not make a profit for this year. Cockerill lost 1,900m francs in 1976 and 3,100m in 1975. A company spokesman said the board had been informed of Cockerill's situation, noting that accumulated losses may amount to half of the company's assets by the year-end. In the first half Cockerill had an operating loss of 2,600m francs and a loss of 3,620m francs after debts.

UK takeover opposed

Provincial Traders Holding of Australia has asked the Foreign Investment Review Board to freeze the proposed partial takeover by the Associated British Foods subsidiary, George Weston Foods.

Weston said in July it intended to offer a combination of shares and cash to Provincial shareholders to acquire 50 per cent of the shares it does not already hold after Provincial reported its profit for the year ended June 30.

A Weston Associate, Food Investments, already holds 14.99 per cent of Provincial's issued shares.

Business appointments

Top changes at World Finance International

Mr G. M. Sayer, retiring chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and Mr Kinsuro Ikeda, president of the Industrial Bank of Japan, have been made joint vice-chairmen of World Finance International. Mr Sayer also becomes a director of World Maritime and World Shipping and Investment.

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Pure new wool

**MAN IN  
WOOL**  
Pure new wool

your tailor!





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For Sales Manager of international Photo Library to deal personally with clients, write letters, make appointments, answer telephone queries, typing, filing, and generally organizing the administration of the office with the minimum of supervision. Salary will be in the region of £3,500-£4,000 depending on experience; 4 weeks' holiday; bonus scheme. If this sounds interesting and you'd like to know more ring Martin Thirkettle on 536 9456.

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Bilingual Secretary, good English and French, with knowledge of export trade, experienced in an export company. Excellent salary and benefits. For further details ring:

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## PUBLISHERS require a House Manager/ess

Applicants will be responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the House, the recruitment of staff, and the up-keep of staff records. The work is varied and demanding and an enthusiastic and energetic person will get considerable job satisfaction.

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# Motoring

## A profitable gap found and now filled

Never let it be said that Britain is no longer the land of opportunity. It is simply that these days the opportunities are less clearly signposted. So it takes a special combination of flair, far-sightedness and commercial astuteness first to identify them, and then exploit them.

Who, for example, would have said in 1971—a year when long established car manufacturers, large and small alike, were fighting for survival—that the path to fame and fortune was to be found within the motor industry?

One person who thought so was Robert Jankel, the managing director of a textile company who found greater satisfaction in building himself replicas of classic cars from yesterday than he did in running his family business.

Trained as an automotive engineer, and dedicated to perfection, the quality of his workmanship was such that very quickly his friends were queuing up for something similar. Whether by chance or shrewd judgment he had exposed a market against other models in the specialist car field, and armed with a modest £7,000 working capital he decided to plug it. The company he formed, Panther West Winds, is now the hub of a group of related automotive firms based in premises at Byfleet, Surrey, and concerned not just with the design and production of exotic cars in the classic mould, but with customer car restoration, prototype work for car manufacturers, ancillary services such as coachbuilding, trimming, and component manufacture in everything from glass-fibre to alloy or brass.

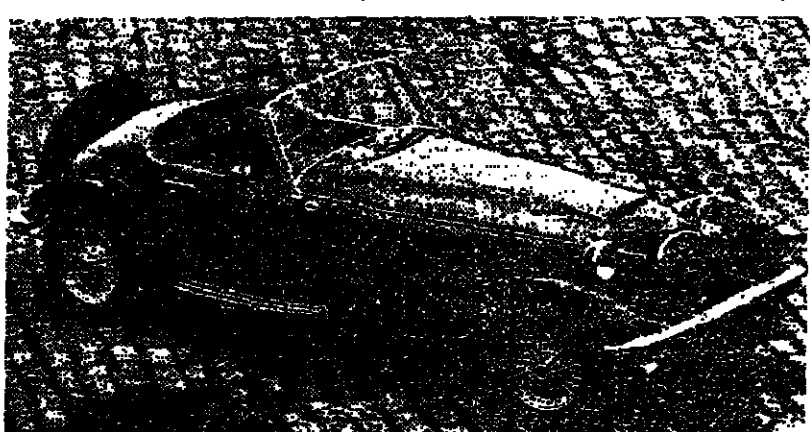
Versatility and flexibility have been key factors in the Panther Group's spectacular advance during the past six years, with turnover almost doubling every year (the figure for 1977 is estimated at £2.3 million) and the premises, once confined to a garage at the back of a house, now occupying 85,000 square feet at Byfleet alone, with more expansion planned for the near future.

The car that set Mr. Jankel on the road to widespread recognition was his interpretation of the classic SS Jaguar 100 of the immediate pre-war period, reincarnated as the Panther 172, with present-day Jaguar mechanical components hidden beneath immaculately finished 1930s-style coachwork. It is still in production at a special plant near Newport Pagnell, where the rate of production is about one car a week, and like nearly all Panther models it is based on a purpose-built steel tube chassis frame.

Since this original design there have been a wide variety of products ranging from the ultra-luxurious, as exemplified by the "big gun" of the early Panther De Ville saloon and convertible (they take 1,000 hours to build, upwards of £34,000 to buy), to bizarre projects such as the wedge-shaped Laser—a futuristic two-car built for a customer.

In between there has been a steady stream of early post-war Ferrari two-seaters, called the Panther FF, and a not entirely successful attempt to turn the Triumph Dolomite into a luxurious compact limousine, labelled the Rio.

Some of Panther's work is classified information, for "his gun" of the motor industry are making good use of this small and versatile company's design flair and its ability to create



Styling from the past—the Panther LIMA

prototypes in weeks rather than many months. But perhaps the company's most significant development in the past year has been the bold decision to enter a wider market with its latest, the LIMA, the two-seater with a glass-fibre body that was such a crowd-puller at the last Earls Court Motor Show.

Until now, most Panthers have been made to order (a substantial deposit must support each order), but the LIMA, which makes wide use of Vauxhall 2300 engine, transmission and other mechanical components, is scheduled for a production rate of 500 a year by the end of 1977, and is being stocked and sold by selected Vauxhall dealers. For the first time Panthers are competing on the showroom floor, and as prices of secondhand classic sports cars soar as these cars become ever scarcer, the LIMA's price does not seem excessive at £5,000 (and a post-exposed a year against other models in the Panther catalogue).

The LIMA is the car which is turning Panther West Winds into a multi-national organization, for already there are plans to market special edition States version, powered by a new General Motors six-cylinder engine, from a base in California. (The original plan to create a local assembly plant there, with customer car restoration, prototype work for car manufacturers, ancillary services such as coachbuilding, trimming, and component manufacture in everything from glass-fibre to alloy or brass.)

Visually, the LIMA is a montage of styling themes from various cars of the past, yet it has a surprisingly well-balanced overall appearance. Look closely and you see the old and the new bleeding together remarkably well, and this is how the car feels from the driving seat. The flexibility of Vauxhall's engine, the easy gearbox, the contemporary instrument and control layout reflect the 1970s, but the car ride, the shallow screen, the brief (though well fitting) soft top, the positive steering and the lack of any door to the luggage space are all echoes from the past. There is a contemporary air about the car to improve stability on the road, but a classic egg-crate grille and a pair of broad swept wings leading into running boards; powerful modern headlights flanking a pair of locking pins by which the rear-hinged bonnet is secured in traditional competition style.

Helped by a considerably modified engine (one of a wide range of performance tuning options listed for the LIMA) it was able to confirm the straight-line stability at over 100 mph (top speed was close to 120 mph), while 0-60 mph in seven seconds was a surprise.

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tains the ambitious sales targets planned for it remains to be seen, and inevitably if it does it will have to sacrifice something in exclusivity. Meanwhile, Panther is by no means through with exotica, and I fancy that Mr. Jankel may well be giving us his biggest surprise yet before this year is out.

One of the most crucial factors in the business of changing a car is the price. There are, of course, publications that purport to list the prices you can expect on your old car, based on different criteria, but as any seasoned trader will tell you these can be nothing more than a guide. The real value of anyone's car is the price it will fetch on the day of disposal, not the theoretical price that it should fetch on a willing buyer and a willing seller.

Unfortunately, therefore, is the car owner who, having found his next car, is unable to complete the deal because his existing model happens not to be in demand in that area at that time. This is one of the strengths of British Car Auctions, which operates from nearly 20 centres around the country, but whose main car auction centre is near Farnborough, Hampshire.

Mr. David Wickins, the group chairman, and Mr. John Feltham, his deputy chairman, are probably the two most knowledgeable people in the country on the subject of car values. They see more than 340,000 company-owned private cars (as well as many thousands of commercial vehicles) passing through their twice-weekly auctions every year. They can spot price trends as they happen, and as their functions attract buyers (the majority, but by no means all are from the motor trade) from a wide area, invariably a genuine car will reach its genuine value under the hammer, merely through competition amongst bidders.

After watching both the prestige car (reserve price over £2,000) and general car auctions for a while during a visit to Farnborough recently, I came away knowing more about used car values than week that I could possibly have discovered in hours of wading through advertisements. Some of the "guesses" I made, and as their functions attract buyers (the majority, but by no means all are from the motor trade) from a wide area, invariably a genuine car will reach its genuine value under the hammer, merely through competition amongst bidders.

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460 GL Estate, beige or green.  
345 Saloon, blue metallic.  
244 DL Manual, dark red.  
244 DL Auto, choice of colours.  
244 Auto, Jubilee Car.  
245 DL Manual, white or yellow.  
245 Auto, green metallic.  
245 Auto, mid blue metallic.

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